

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Rams rekindle  
playoff hopes by  
routing Eagles' backups**

Back page

St. Louis Rams  
quarterback Marc Bulger



**Go online  
to help support  
the troops**

Page 5



**Exchange holiday  
gifts with ease  
at AAFES**

Page 4

Volume 63, No. 255 © SS 2004

G

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2004

50¢

# AAFES gas prices to decline in January

Officials say consumers can expect to save 11 to 13 cents a gallon Page 3

## Asia disease fears prompt mass burials

Pages 6, 10



■ U.S. family escapes death

An unidentified person arranges the bodies of victims killed by the tsunami for a mass burial Tuesday at Kolachal, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. More than 4,000 people in India are among the estimated 52,000 killed by the tsunami that smashed coastlines after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off Indonesia's coast on Sunday.

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

COMING  
SOON

Travel on Thursday

Greek getaway  
offers fun afloat

Ben Stiller

Personality Parade

Celebrity news  
from ParadeDon't miss a  
single issue.For home delivery,  
call DSN 349-8437

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

Your Homeland Newspaper

## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....24  
American Roundup .....18-19  
Classified .....25-26  
Comics .....22-24  
Crossword .....23  
Faces .....21  
Horoscope .....22  
Letters .....14  
Opinion .....15  
Sports .....27-36  
TV listings .....20  
Weather .....17  
Your Money .....16

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Grounded freighter in Bering Sea:** Alaskan state regulators have banned commercial fishing in the Bering Sea near the wreckage of a grounded freighter where fuel oil has been seeping since early this month.

The order affects the Makushin Bay and Skan Bay tanner crab fishery, which had been scheduled to open Jan. 15. Also closed will be Pacific cod, black rockfish and fisheries for other groundfish that would have opened Saturday.

The wreckage of the 738-foot Selendang Ayu has been leaking oil and diesel fuel since it wrecked Dec. 8. More than 210,000 gallons is believed to have leaked so far.

So far, more than 40,000 pounds of oily waste have been collected in bags along the shore of Alaska Island, according to officials. Forty-one dead birds and a dead sea otter have been recovered so far. Hundreds of other oil-blackened birds have been spotted.

**Cincinnati race riots:** Cincinnati police are not fully cooperating with a federal monitor appointed in the wake of riots in 2001 triggered by an officer's fatal shooting of an unarmed black man, the monitor said in a report released Monday.

Police officials refused access to documents requested by a member of the monitor's staff, and refused to let the staffer ride along with police on an inspection of known drug locations, the report said.

Saul Green, a former federal prosecutor, heads the team overseeing implementation of a 2002 agreement to make changes in police policies and a related settlement of a racial profiling lawsuit that accused police of harassing blacks.

**Ohio national election results:** The Ohio secretary of state, who declared President Bush the official winner in Ohio, is seeking a court order to keep himself from being interviewed as part of a court challenge of the Nov. 2 vote.

Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell claims his deposition is not required, and accused 37 voters challenging the election of "frivolous conduct."

The court challenge cites irregularities in voting machines in minority precincts and problems with computer equipment.

Bush defeated Sen. John Kerry by 119,000 votes, according to Blackwell's official count; Ohio's 20 electoral votes gave Bush the 270 he needed for victory.

## War on terrorism

**Guantanamo tribunal:** A prisoner who allegedly stockpiled explosives at a police station in Afghanistan was one of three detainees to go before U.S. military review tribunals on Monday in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said.

The military alleged the suspect, 34, was in charge of the police station where a raid by U.S. and Afghan forces netted two truck-



Blackwell

## World

**Palestinian elections:** Palestinian voters will be stamped with indelible ink and ballot boxes locked with numbered seals to prevent possible fraud in the Jan. 9 presidential election, the first in nine years, election officials said Tuesday.

Preliminary results from about 3,000 polling stations will be available two or three hours after the polls close, according to a top official in the Central Election Commission. Two pollsters will conduct exit polls.

In a speech to about 4,000 backers in Jericho on Tuesday, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said he will follow in the footsteps of the late Yasser Arafat, whose position as head of the Palestinian Authority he is favored to win in a Jan. 9 election.

He said Arafat "devoted his life to the cause of his people," and pledged to follow Arafat's policies.

**Stalled Korean talks:** North Korea blamed South Korea on Tuesday for a stall in the dialogue between the two countries and demanded an apology.



**Kashmir on the agenda:** Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar, right, receives his Indian counterpart Shyam Saran at the Foreign Ministry on Monday in Islamabad, Pakistan. The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan began two days of talks that will include their first formal dialogue on Kashmir since the nuclear rivals launched a peace process a year ago, officials said.

loads of ammunition and explosives, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daryl Borquist, a Pentagon spokesman.

The ammunition was under the control of the ousted Taliban regime and was being used in operations against U.S. and coalition forces, Borquist said.

The Combatant Status Review Tribunals are intended to decide whether the approximately 550 prisoners from more than 40 countries at Guantanamo are properly held as "enemy combatants" or should be released.

In a lengthy report, the North's Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland cited a mass defection of North Koreans to the capitalist South earlier this year — and a joint military exercise the South held with the United States — as "anti-reunification acts."

**Croatian elections:** President Stipe Mesic said he is confident he will win Sunday's presidential elections and lead Croatia into the European Union by the end of the decade, despite the country's failure to hand over a top war crimes suspect.



Mesic

The EU decided two weeks ago that membership talks with Croatia should start on March 17, providing that the country arrests and extradite fugitive army Gen. Ante Gotovina, who is wanted by U.N. war crimes prosecutors based in The Hague, Netherlands.

Mesic said he was confident the hunt for the fugitive wouldn't jeopardize Croatia's bid for EU membership. "Croatia certainly will enter the EU in this decade," he said.

## Business

**Fannie Mae pension:** Franklin Raines, who was forced out as Fannie Mae's chief executive after five years, is due to receive a pension of \$1.3 million a year for life, according to an agreement with the mortgage lending giant.

In documents filed Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Fannie Mae also revealed that Raines has deferred compensation of \$8.7 million to be paid out through 2020 and owns more than \$5.5 million in the company's stock.

Photos and stories from wire reports

Your savings really add up with  
**Certificate Specials**  
From Service Credit Union

**2.50**  
14 Month \$1,000 min.  
Contact us for details!

Other rates and terms available

**Service**  
CREDIT UNION

www.servicecu.org  
24 Hour Contact Center  
0800-4728-2000

Member FDIC  
Equal Housing Lender  
Member NCUA  
Member FDIC

# AAFFES says gas prices will decline in January

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

A year ago, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced that January 2004 gas prices would drop for a third consecutive month.

Not a bad way to usher in the New Year.

But from that point on, as most Americans stationed in Europe know, the price of gas rose sharply, more or less mirroring what was happening in the United States. A gallon of regular unleaded gas in Germany, for example, climbed from \$1.67 in January 2004 to \$2.16 in December.

From the beginning of the year on, prices "went straight up," said Joe Giuffreda, vice president of AAFFES-Europe.

Officials attribute the sharp increase to dwindling supplies and heightened demand worldwide. Prices at AAFFES filling stations leveled out in late summer, but began climbing again in the fall.

Now, as was the case a year ago, AAFFES fuel prices are coming down for the month of January.

On average, all grades of fuel will cost 11 to 13 cents a gallon less than in December, according to AAFFES officials.

In Germany, the price of regular unleaded fuel is dropping from \$2.16 a gallon to \$2.05, while the cost of a gallon of super unleaded fuel will decrease from \$2.20 to \$2.15. Super plus unleaded will drop from \$2.36 to \$2.25 and the price of diesel fuel will slip from \$2.33 to \$2.21 a gallon.

Meanwhile in the United Kingdom, AAFFES customers will see the price of super unleaded gas fall from \$2.20 a gallon to \$2.09. Likewise, the price of diesel will drop in January from \$2.27 a gallon to \$2.14.

In Netherlands, the gallon price for super unleaded fuel will decrease from \$2.27 to \$2.15, while the cost of super-plus unleaded will fall from \$2.52 to \$2.35 a gallon. Diesel fuel dropped from \$2.51 to \$2.48 a gallon.

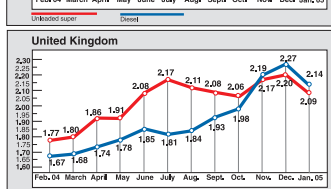
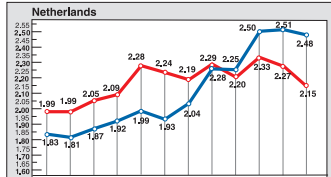
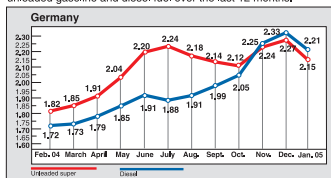
"We go with the Department of Energy average from the previous month," Giuffreda said, explaining the prices. "We're always a month behind."

AAFFES sets its prices based on the average cost of fuel in the United States, which is checked weekly by the Department of Energy. The prices are taken from the previous month and then disseminated as are factored in.

Troops, civilians and dependents in Italy, Spain, Turkey and the Azores also have felt the rising cost of fuel at the pump. How-

## Gasline prices in 2004

Gas prices in Europe will fall more than 10 cents a gallon in January. Here is a look at AAFFES prices in dollars for one gallon of super unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel over the last 12 months.



Source: AAFFES

PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

ever, rates there aren't adjusted so often. Rates in Turkey and the Azores change annually, while Navy installations in Italy and Spain adjust prices separately from AAFFES.

Overall, Giuffreda said, AAFFES sold less fuel in 2004 than it did the previous year. Giuffreda attributed the drop off to the deployment of tens of thousands of troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, though, he added, folks might be adjusting their driving patterns in response to higher fuel prices.

"We've pumped nine percent less gallons," Giuffreda said. "Is that conservation? Who knows?"

Citing the Department of En-

ergy, an AAFFES news release stated that regular unleaded fuel in the United States is 33 cents a gallon more expensive than a year ago. However, AAFFES figures for that same grade of gas in Germany show a rise of 49 cents.

Giuffreda didn't know why that was the case, but he insisted that AAFFES is sticking to its policy of going by the Energy Department figures. From time to time there will be anomalies, he said, noting that AAFFES is mandated to make money, and then to pour the money back into military communities in the form of improved facilities and quality-of-life programs.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: [doughertyk@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:doughertyk@mail.strips.osd.mil)



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

A man takes a stroll in the newly fallen snow in Griesheim, Germany. Cold temperatures are expected to last through midday Wednesday.

## Up to five inches of snow expected in parts of Germany

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A winter storm system that prompted weather warnings and summoned the plowman in parts of central Europe this week will dissipate before it can create New Year's Eve traffic snarls, Air Force weather experts said Tuesday.

The cold front, expected to drop enough powder to match the average snowfall for the entire month of December in some areas of Germany, should move on by late Wednesday, said Tech. Sgt. Darrell Roberts at the U.S. Air Force in Europe's Operational Weather Squadron in Sembach.

Up to five inches of snow were expected in some parts of Germany, according to OWS forecasts, triggering weather warnings from Baumholder to Stuttgart. At Ramstein Air Base, where 1.9 inches of snow falls on average in December, two to three inches were expected to pile up, Roberts said.

"It's a decent snowfall," Roberts said. "It doesn't happen a great deal."

A spokeswoman at Ramstein said Tuesday afternoon that plows were busy clearing snow off the flight line at the military's chief Air Force hub in Europe, but the storm had not yet forced the delay or cancellation of any flights.

Tuesday marked the second time plows from the 415th Base Support Battalion in the Kaiserslautern area have hit the roads, said Kent Carson, deputy director of Public Works for the 415th.

German contractors working at U.S. facilities are required to start clearing roads and spreading sand after only a few millimeters of snow collects on priority streets, Carson said.

Though the snow isn't expected to last, the forecasted weather pattern will likely have people in central Europe celebrating a soggy New Year, with temperatures rising and more precipitation moving in by Friday, Roberts said.

"It looks like widespread rainfall for the New Year's Eve time frame," he said.

Highs will be in the upper 30s to mid-40s over the holiday weekend, Roberts said.

E-mail Ben Murray at: [murrayb@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:murrayb@mail.strips.osd.mil)

## Germans: Bush to visit Ramstein

German newspapers are reporting that President Bush will visit Ramstein Air Base in February, though the U.S. military in Europe is keeping mum on the issue.

At least two publications — Main Spitze and Bild Zeitung, the newspaper with the highest circulation in Germany — have reported that Bush intends to pay U.S. service-

members a visit, identifying Feb. 23 as the scheduled date. Bild Zeitung also hinted at a possible visit to Wiesbaden, where the 1st Armored Division is based.

## Carney Park temporarily shut down

Violent wind and rain storms that swept across Naples, Italy, this weekend toppled trees and forced the tempo-

rary shutdown of Carney Park, officials said.

Navy officials say there is no timeline to reopen the park, a recreational site set up in the middle of an inactive volcanic crater just outside the city.

However, cleanup efforts are ongoing and the park will reopen as soon as possible, said Chief Petty Officer Dawn Scott, Naval Support Activity Naples spokeswoman.

From staff reports



Sigrid Fontanez and her daughter Lisa check out some bargains on Christmas cards Tuesday at the Hainerberg Main Exchange in Wiesbaden, Germany.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

## After-Christmas shoppers taking advantage of sales

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Shoppers should be pleasantly surprised when returning gifts at post and base exchanges, thanks to liberal return policies and holiday sale prices. Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials say.

AAFES stores are offering hassle-free exchanges and using gift cards to give in-store credit for returns without receipts.

Merchandise brought in for a refund must have a receipt for cash back; otherwise, an AAFES gift card will be given for in-store credit at customer service counters, said Lorie Sanborn, sales and merchandise manager at the Hainerberg Shopping Center exchange in Wiesbaden. A bit of a warning: Gifts returned without receipts might take on new sales prices, AAFES officials said.

Merchandise being exchanged for the same item, just of a different size, should be taken to an

AAFES representative on the sales floor to ask for an exchange. Sanborn said, helping shoppers avoid lines at the service counters.

Most items — with or without receipts — must be returned to the store within 90 days, said Sanborn. However, unopened music, movies and games must be returned 45 days from purchase; all jewelry and watches must be returned 30 days from purchase; and computers and unopened software have only a 15-day window.

These time limitations are written on the back of every AAFES receipt, Sanborn said.

It is not necessary for merchandise to be returned at the store where it was purchased, she said.

"AAFES is spread out so far that, as long as the person has the item with the UPC code on it, it will be accepted," Sanborn said.

She said while gifts are being returned, shoppers also could take advantage of after-holiday sales. In the Wiesbaden store, all Christmas items are between 50 percent and 75 percent off, plus

there are many markdowns throughout the store. "I'm all for it," said Sigrid Fontanez, who had traveled from Hanau to shop with her daughter, Lisa, 15. "I'm definitely going to pick up Christmas cards, tissue and wrapping paper, and other Christmas items. I hope I get everything for 75 percent off."

"They should put the merchandise up front. At first I thought I missed it all, but then I got to the back of the store and saw all the sales. It's nice."

Customers can view the next two weeks of sales for Europe and other exchanges around the world by clicking on the "AAFES sales flyers" link at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), according to Debbie Byerly, an AAFES spokeswoman.

"Individual stores will also have local area manager's specials on seasonal merchandise," Byerly said. "These sales will vary by store and date, as no two stores normally have the same exchanges on hand due to individual store product mix differences."

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [jinigo@mail.strips.com](mailto:jinigo@mail.strips.com)

## Making a difference in lives of veterans

Van helps men get to hospital in Richmond

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — For Joe Dudley and hundreds of local war veterans, an 11-passenger Ford van with 40,000 miles on the odometer is a thing of beauty.

The van, in need of a touchup, transports veterans with medical needs from American Legion Post 74 on Pantops Mountain to McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center in Richmond.

"I think she's beautiful," said Dudley, standing in front of the government-owned vehicle. "It's something we've needed for a long time around here and it'll really help us serve our veterans."

Dudley and two brothers served in Vietnam while another brother served in Korea and still another in World War II. One brother served in Vietnam and in the Gulf War.

As a civilian, Dudley has served his fellow veterans as president of American Legion Post 74 and now serves as commander of the local Disabled American Veterans.

"We've got veterans from all the wars here in town and they're eligible for medical treatment at the veterans hospital, but a lot of them have a hard time getting there," he said.

So Dudley made himself a designated driver.

"I took them down in my own car. I probably made about eight trips," Dudley said.

"When you've got an appointment and you can't get to it because you can't get there, it's not only bad for you medically but it costs the Veterans Administration money."

On one visit Dudley, decided to make a side trip to an administra-

tor's office while waiting for his charge to finish his medical care. "I knew about the van being available and so I figured I'd go ask," he said.

"They said 'Sure, we've got one out in the parking lot that's just sitting there.' So I took it." The legion post agreed to give the van a home. The van arrived in Charlottesville on Nov. 9.

"There was some question about whether it was worth the paperwork because there's a lot of it and it's confusing," Dudley said. "I figured that if we can handle the paperwork, the van would make a big difference in veterans' lives, so it was worth trying."

Some of the government regulations are annoying, he admitted. For instance, the van can only travel from the legion post to the hospital. It cannot be used to pick up members. Any family members accompanying a veteran must have prior approval from the hospital administration.

It's all about insurance rules and it makes sense when they don't want anyone abusing the privilege," Dudley said. "And it's not that difficult to get permission from the hospital. They're pretty good about it."

The DAV has a few rules to go with the service.

No smoking, no scuffling, no alcohol, and unruly riders will not be tolerated. The van made three trips to Richmond in November and at least seven were planned this month.

"The van is there for all the people who served the country and are eligible to go the veterans hospital," Dudley said.

"The way things are going nowadays overseas, we may need it even more in the future."

Joe Dudley van driver

## \$100,000 in gifts arrive overseas for servicemembers

3,000 packages filled with CDs, phone cards, books, sunblock

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

Sailors and Marines deployed to remote locations throughout the Middle East and Africa might be far from home during the holidays, but they're getting a little help to help cheer them up.

More than 3,000 packages packed with music CDs, phone cards, books and sunblock began arriving at the far-flung bases before Christmas as part of a stateside sponsorship drive. The gifts are part of an annual

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department sponsorship drive that was started after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The packages — valued at more than \$100,000 — arrived at the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain earlier this month, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Trevett, a Navy journalist stationed at the base.

Volunteers from the base and members of the Petty Officer First Class Association helped prepare the boxes for distribution to places such as Kuwait,

the Horn of Africa, Jordan, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Servicemembers deployed to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates and to oil terminals in the Persian Gulf also were to receive the gifts.

Navy C-130 Hercules transport aircraft distributed most of the boxes. Federal Express flew the packages to Bahrain. This is the third year of the drive, which was organized out of Millington, Tenn.

The program has grown larger every year.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: [schonauer@mail.strips.com](mailto:schonauer@mail.strips.com)



JASON TREVETT/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors and Marines at Camp Morale, Kuwait, receive Christmas gifts this month donated by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department's stateside sponsorship drive.



# Iranian security forces targeted in attacks

## 19 policemen among 24 killed in multiple assaults by insurgents

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents launched multiple attacks on Iraqi police across the dangerous Sunni Triangle on Tuesday, killing 24 people — including 19 policemen — a day after the major Sunni Muslim political party pulled out of the Jan. 30 elections citing the deteriorating security situation.

Also Tuesday, a militant group claimed to have executed eight Iraqi employees of the Saudi Group, an American security company, saying they had supported the U.S.-led occupation. The claim could not be independently verified.

Twelve policemen died when gunmen attacked a station 12 miles south of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, said Arkan Mohammed, a local government official.

A car bomb killed five Iraqi National Guardsmen and injured 26 near Baquba, a town 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, after the paramilitary troops had cordoned off an area in order to disarm a roadside bomb, said Maj. Neal O'Brien.

Baquba, gunmen assassinated Capt. Na'em Muhanad Abdulrah, a local police commander, and wounded three other men, a spokesman said.

Elsewhere Tuesday, a car bomb exploded in the village of Muradiya, 18 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing five civilians and wounding dozens, said Dr. Ahmed Fouad, director of the Baquba General Hospital.

In Mosul, a gunman attacked a police station in the Hadbaa dis-

trict, killing one policeman, police Capt. Ahmed Khalil.

In another blow to plans to hold the ballot as scheduled, the largest Sunni political group withdrew from the race Monday, only hours after a suicide car bomber killed 15 people in Baghdad in an attempt to assassinate the head of Iraq's strongest Shiite party.

The rebels campaign to disrupt the elections for a new constitutional assembly has steadily escalated in recent weeks, and most Sunni parties and ethnic groups have already decided to boycott the ballot, calling for a postponement of the vote until the security situation stabilizes.

Iraq's national security adviser, Qassem Dawud, called on Syria to turn in Saddam Hussein loyalists who are helping insurgents in Iraq and to help secure its border. He said that Sabaawi al-Hassan, one of Saddam's half brothers, and a Saddam loyalist named Younis al-Ahmed are supporting the insurgency from Syria.

"We hope the Syrian government... will cooperate with us in drying the sources of terrorism in its territories and limiting the movements of Saddamists there," Dawud told the Al-Rai Al-Aam daily during a visit to Iraq.

Insurgents have mainly targeted members of the interim government's security forces — whom they claim to be collaborating with the American occupation forces — killing hundreds in the past two months.

The 10 employees of Saudi Group were killed in an attack on Baghdad on Dec. 13 by militants claiming to represent the Mujahideen Army, The Black Banner



People inspect a destroyed police station 12 miles south of Tikrit, Iraq, on Tuesday. Twelve policemen died when gunmen attacked the station.

Brigade, and the Mutassim Belal Brigade.

"Eight have been executed because it was proven that they were supporting the occupying army. The other two will be released for lack of evidence," a statement said.

In the city of Samarra, a suicide attacker detonated his car in the city center wounding 10 people, including three children, police Maj. Saadoun Ahmed Matroud.

Also in Samarra, U.S. troops killed three gunmen when they attacked an American post, the military said. No U.S. servicemen were wounded.

Several mortar rounds targeted an Iraqi police station in Mufrqi, injuring three policemen, said Lt. Saleh Hussein.

In Babil province, police said they arrested 10 men in a raid in Jbil after intelligence indicated the suspects were allegedly plotting to attack a police station there, Capt. Hady Hatfi said.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,325 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,038 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,187 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 925 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- A soldier was killed Sunday by an explosive in Samarra, Iraq.
- A soldier was killed Monday by an explosive in Baghdad.
- The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department: Killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.:
- Marine Lance Cpl. Eric Hillenbrand, 21, Marion, Ind.
- Marine Lance Cpl. James R. Phillips, 21, Florida
- Marine Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, 21, Lincoln, Mont.

## Tape likely bin Laden

WASHINGTON — An audio tape by Osama bin Laden suggested al-Qaida chief has accepted Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi offer to unite the world's most famous terror group and the bloodiest insurgency inside Iraq, national security experts say.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday the CIA technical analysis of the 2-minute, 5-second audio tape concludes with "moderate confidence" that the voice is bin Laden's. The official said the quality of the tape is poor, making it difficult to attribute to a specific person, but the official added that the U.S. government is operating on the assumption that the tape came from bin Laden.

Bin Laden could benefit from allying himself with an anti-American fighter who gets daily publicity. Al-Zarqawi may get more financial assistance and support from bin Laden's backers, the experts said.

But for bin Laden, the alliance comes at a price: He is now tied to al-Qaida's bloody bomb attacks against Iraq's majority Shiite Muslims as well as Americans.

## Americans going online to support troops

By PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center asked Monday that no more phone cards or other goods be collected and sent to Walter Reed through February.

Such is the crush of support for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Internet has made much of this revolution in giving possible, with Web sites popping up regularly to help the public show their support and to try to give life a little better for some servicemember downrange.

Helping GIs communicate with distant loved ones is a popular and practical way people are helping.

Last week, Democracy for America, former presidential candidate Howard Dean's new political action committee, donated 200,000 minutes of phone cards to patients at veterans' hospitals in seven states.

Also last week, the Capital One finance company announced it would donate its video teleconferencing facilities in McLean, Va., and Richmond, Va., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST on Dec. 30 to connect local family members with their troops in Camp Tajik (aka Camp Cooke) and Camp Fallujah.

The gesture is being made in conjunction with the Freedom Calls Foundation, www.freedomcalls.org, a New York-based nonprofit organization that links military personnel and their families worldwide.

Operation Troop Appreciation, one of many philanthropic "operations," has fielded requests and outfitted 1,000 troops with T-shirts, socks and underwear, recently throwing a party and raffle at Finnigan's Wake, a bar in Pittsburgh.

This nonprofit was started by Kristen Holloway and fellow students at the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh.

Holloway asked a friend whose brother was in Iraq what he needed. When told he needed T-shirts for his platoon, Holloway solicited the help of friends and family, and eventually tapped the talents of the business school to set up a nonprofit.

Books for Soldiers (found on the Internet at [www.booksforsoldiers.com](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com)), which calls itself as "Care Packages for the Mind," was started during the first Gulf War to alleviate servicemembers' boredom during downings.

GIs send in addresses, which book donors can see on a message board, to mail books or other requested items. The site offers mailing tips such as keeping the packages small to ensure swift delivery.

Two authors of parenting books want servicemembers and their families to have their e-books, free of charge.

This site [www.giftformilitaryfamilies.com](http://www.giftformilitaryfamilies.com), offers a "care package from the heart."

Erin Brown Cown, mother of 12 and author of "20 Secrets to Success with Your Child," and

Mort Fertel, who penned "Marriage Fitness" which he calls a step-by-step system for getting any marriage in top shape, are offered free of charge to family members of deployed servicemembers.

The site [www.operationfirstresponse.org](http://www.operationfirstresponse.org) focuses on wounded troops, not just at Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospital, but at 11 combat support hospitals in Iraq and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

With online donations, they buy a backpack and fill it with items the troops and family members always say are needed: socks, underwear, a toothbrush, razors, a 100-minute phone card, and such.

Though shortage facilities at Walter Reed are full, there is always a need for cash donations to the organizations that provide support to servicemembers at Walter Reed and at other military hospitals.

Some cited were the Walter Reed Society, at [www.wramc.aned.army.mil/wrsociety/](http://www.wramc.aned.army.mil/wrsociety/); the Fisher House, at <http://fisherhouse.org>; or the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Many other worthwhile organizations are listed at the "Support Our Troops" link in the Department of Defense Web site, [www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov), [www.dodmilitary.com/support\\_troops.html](http://www.dodmilitary.com/support_troops.html) or at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com), where you can find a link to America Supports You, a Web site where such organizations can get their word out.

E-mail Pat Dickson at: [dicksonp@stripes.odm.sld](mailto:dicksonp@stripes.odm.sld)

## IN THE WORLD

## Tsunami death toll rises to 52,000

## Bodies hastily buried as fear of disease rises

BY LELY T. DJUHARI

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Mourners in Sri Lanka buried their dead with bare hands Tuesday while displaced and hungry islanders in Indonesia looted stores following an explosive tsunami that the United Nations said may be history's costliest natural disaster.

The death toll rose dramatically to 52,000, and officials expected it to rise further.

A dozen nations in a band of destruction from Southeast Asia to Africa tallied corpses at tropical beaches, devastated villages and choked hospital morgues — with 10,000 dead found in a single Indonesian town. The overall toll Tuesday doubled over the previous day.

Thousands of people were missing, and millions are homeless.

Aid agencies feared malaria and cholera may add to the toll from Sunday's massive quake-sparked waves, and mounted what U.N. officials said would be the world's biggest relief effort.

"This is unprecedented," said Yvette Stevens, an emergency relief coordinator of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

But help wasn't arriving fast enough for Indonesia's Sumatra island, where residents turned to looting to find food.

"There is no help; it is each person for themselves here," district official Tengku Zulkarnain told el-Shinta radio from the island's devastated western coast.



AP photos

**Above:** Bodies are piled in a mass burial pit for unidentified bodies Tuesday near Galle, Sri Lanka. **Below:** A government worker throws bleach on the ground in Woollapalem, India, to prevent disease outbreaks.

Emergency workers who reached the northern tip of Sumatra island found that 10,000 people had been killed in a single town, Meulaboh, said Purnomo Sidik, national disaster director at the Social Affairs Ministry.

Sunday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake under the Indian Ocean shot concussions of water onto coastlines from Indonesia to Somalia, drowning tens of thousands. Almost a third of the dead were children, the U.N. children's agency estimated.

More than 20,000 were killed in Indonesia, more than 4,000 in India and more than 1,500 in Thailand. Indonesia's vice president estimated his country probably had 27,000 victims.

The death toll from the tsunami eventually could double because of disease, the World Health Organization warned Tuesday.

"There is certainly a chance that we could have as many dying from communicable diseases as

from the tsunami," Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations for WHO, told reporters.

In Sri Lanka's severely hit town of Galle, officials mounted a loudspeaker on a fire engine to advise residents to lay bodies on roads for collection. Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, residents took on burial efforts with forks or even bare hands to scrape a final resting place for victims.

The tsunami and flooding have uprooted land mines in the war-torn country, threatening to kill or maim aid workers and survivors attempting to return to what's left of their homes.

Indonesia's Sumatra island was nearest the epicenter of Sunday's monstrous quake — the world's biggest in 40 years — and rescuers there battled to reach isolated coasts and dig into rubble of destroyed houses to seek survivors and retrieve the dead.

"We are working 24 hours to get out people out," said Red Cross worker Tamin Faisil in Banda Aceh on Sumatra.



Red Cross official Irman Rachmat, also in Banda Aceh, said people on the island were in despair.

"People are looting, but not because they are evil... they are hungry," he said. "We don't have enough people to bury the dead. We are worried that all the corpses on the streets will lead to disease."

## At least 800 dead after train leveled

The Associated Press

TELWATTA, Sri Lanka — More than 800 people were killed when their train, the "Queen of the Sea," was swept off the track by this week's raging tsunami, police said, and several hundred bodies pulled from the twisted wreckage were buried Tuesday alongside the railway line.

The train was carrying 1,000 residents of Colombo to a southern beach resort when it came to a stop just before its destination as waters began to rise Sunday. Residents of nearby towns ran onto the train, trying to seek protection on its roof when the wall of water hit, police said. The eight train cars lay disconnected and overturned in deep pools of water yards away from the track amid debris and fallen palm trees Tuesday. The force of the waves had torn off some of the wheels, and the tracks twisted like a loop on a roller coaster.

One thousand tickets were sold in Colombo for the train, and rescuers recovered 802 bodies from the train's cars and the muck beneath them, said military spokesman Brig. Daya Ratnayake.

**DESTINATIONS UNLIMITED**

RTT is your Air Force owned, fully licensed travel agency dedicated to giving you the BEST deals! Compare and Save! NEW! Eural Passes online.

**RTT**

Online Booking 24/7 at [www.RTTtravel.com](http://www.RTTtravel.com)

*Destinations, Unlimited*

RTT Ramstein • Bldg. 116 480-6310/6650 06371-46360	
RTT Sembach 8068_201 496-7719 06302-2939	RTT Vogelweh 8068_2059 480-7064 0631-58018

**RTT SERVICES**

## 'They just ran for their lives'

### N.H. family visiting Thailand beach fortunate to survive surprise wave

The Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — A Portsmouth family is lucky to be alive after their trip around the world landed them at the site of this week's devastating earthquake in Asia.

Bill and Susan McClure have been traveling since July with their two daughters, Morgan and Lily, ages 12 and 8. They reached Thailand on Christmas, the day before a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck the Indian Ocean, killing more than 52,000 people. McClure said his 12-year-old daughter died. Secretary of State Colin Powell said. Hundreds more remained missing in 10 countries in southern Asia and Africa.

Bill McClure's brother, Andrew McClure, said Susan and the girls were on the beach when the natural disaster hit.

"It sounds like they were in a

very dangerous situation and got out of it," Andrew McClure said Monday night. "They were on the beach and they ran. Then we got word they didn't know where Bill was."

Bill McClure was believed to have been on a scuba diving trip at the time. At least 24 hours passed before his family heard that he was OK.

At 4 a.m. on Monday, Andrew McClure got a phone call at his Brentwood home from Susan.

"We were very fortunate that they were able to call us," he said. "They borrowed an international cell phone, so they only had a few minutes."

Susan McClure described what happened when the tsunami hit. "You can only imagine what it must have been like to be a mother with 12- and 8-year-old girls clinging to you," said Andy Mc-

Clure. "She said the water was ankle deep and then suddenly it was chest deep. They just ran for their lives. I've been in tough spots before, but never where my life, and my children's lives, were in imminent threat of death. You just can't know what that kind of trauma does to you."

Communication has been limited during the family's travels, primarily because the McClures have spent most nights camping out, Andrew McClure said. When they reached Thailand, however, where accommodations are less expensive, they were able to stay in a hotel.

Since they started their travels, the McClures have been filing regular dispatches that have been published on the Sunday Herald travel page and on [www.seacostonline.com](http://www.seacostonline.com).

When asked if he thought the family would continue their jour-

ney or return to Portsmouth, Andrew McClure wasn't sure.

"It all depends on the details of what happened," he said. "This has the potential of being a very traumatizing thing. They have kids. I don't know how they'll be filtering this through. They probably need time to feel safe before they can decide to go on."

**New Computers and Laptops!!!**

No Down Payment Required!!

**Visit Us Today!**  
[www.militarycomputers.us](http://www.militarycomputers.us)

**E-1 AND ABOVE APPROVED**



# HVP™

HIGH VELOCITY PROTECTION

## ROMER II

INTERCHANGEABLE THREE-LENS SYSTEM  
NSN: 4240-01-510-7864



Comes w/ three lenses (Tinted / Clear / Light Rust),  
and soft case for storage.

- \* Preferred Eyewear of Thousands Conducting OEF / OIF
- \* Meets ANSI Z87.1-2003 High Velocity Protection
- \* Low Profile Design for Universal Helmet & NVG Compatibility
- \* Provides 100% UVA & UVB Protection
- \* Field Proven (that says it all)

## PT-1SCL

INTERCHANGEABLE THREE-LENS SYSTEM  
NSN: 4240-01-510-7851



Comes w/ three lenses (Tinted / Clear / Light Rust),  
cleaning cloth & tactical case for storage.

- \* Preferred Eyewear of Thousands Conducting OEF / OIF
- \* Meets ANSI Z87.1-2003 High Velocity Protection
- \* Meets MIL-PRF-31013 V0 Ballistic Fragmentation
- \* Low Profile Design for Universal Helmet & NVG Compatibility
- \* Provides 100% UVA & UVB Protection
- \* Field Proven (that says it all)



for more information, call 1.800.776.7842 or visit [www.wileyx.com](http://www.wileyx.com)

**MCX**  
MODERN  
CORPS VALUE

**AAFS**  
ARMY  
AIR FORCE  
NAVY  
MARINE CORPS







# BEST BUYS

**ON SALE December 30 - January 12**



## Listerine 1.0 L.

Citrus, Cool Mint,  
FreshBurst,  
Original, Tartar Control

Reg. \$3.99 - \$5.00 IRC Coupon\*

**You Save 13%**  
**\$3.49**

\*Coupons are available via take one pads in store while supplies last.



## Lubriderm 16 oz.

Advanced Therapy, Daily Moisture,  
Daily Moisture - Fragrance Free,  
Sensitive Skin Therapy,  
Skin Nourishing and  
Daily Moisture with SPF 15

Reg. \$6.33 - \$1.00 IRC Coupon\*

**You Save 16%**  
**\$5.33**

The information on this page is authorized for commissary shoppers only. These are extra low prices on selected items available only in your commissary for a limited time. Make sure to look at the top of the page for sale dates. Sometimes, because of product distribution or locations of stores, a few of the prices on this page may not be available at the advertised price. The commissary is not responsible for errors on this page or in any commercially funded advertising. The commissary is not required to offer the prices advertised here if the price shown is in error. This advertising is not sponsored or paid for by the Defense Commissary Agency or the

## Commissary locator highlights Web site change

By Rick Brink  
richard.brink@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. —The "commissary locator," a new driving-distance calculator and mapping feature on <http://www.commissaries.com>, highlights several changes to the Defense Commissary Agency Web site designed to help patrons maximize their shopping experience. The Web site sports a new red, white and blue motif with drop-down navigation menus to give the site a consistent look and operation throughout and to help visitors navigate more speedily. It also gives visitors an option to view Flash animations highlighting features that make commissary shopping so unique and popular among U.S. military service members.

"The changes couldn't come at a better time. November marked the first anniversary of unlimited commissary shopping for Guard and Reserve families, many of whom live some distance from a commissary. Our new commissary locator feature will make it easy for them to determine where to shop," said Patrick B. Nixon, DeCA's acting director and chief executive officer.

Visitors use the commissary locator by providing their ZIP code and a driving distance of their choice into data fields on a Web page. The

system responds by providing a list of all commissaries within the driving distance. When visitors select a commissary from the list, they're taken to that commissary's Web page that features a link for detailed driving directions to the commissary from a location provided by the visitor. The Dec. 1 launch of the new-look Web site comes four years after it was last changed. The site's content is essentially the same, although it's been organized and presented a little differently in some cases to better present content that's been added in the last four years.

The popular commissary store Web pages, which each of the 272 commissaries maintain themselves to provide the most current local shopping information possible, are still featured under the "locations" navigation button.

Designed with commissary shoppers in mind, the site also serves DeCA employees and its business partners. A new "about us" navigation button serves as the gateway to job announcements, information for employees, information for business partners and as a way to access the online customer comment form. Thanks to the drop-down navigation menus, these popular features are just a click away from the home page.

## Scholarships for Military Children program enters fifth anniversary year

By Bonnie Powell  
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. —The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway. Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees.

"The Scholarships for Military Children program has become a major community event for commissaries since its inception five years ago," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency. "The program awarded 500 scholarships in 2004 and ceremonies were held in commissaries worldwide in honor of these outstanding students. The industry members who support this program should be proud — and we hope the fifth anniversary year will be the best yet!"

Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. A link to the program will be on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the

advertising supplement to the Stars and Stripes

DeCA Web site. Eligibility and other information are also available at the program Web site. Applications, which must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, are due at commissaries Feb. 16, 2005. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

# Generation of young Asians lost to disaster

BY S. SRINIVASAN  
The Associated Press

**CUDDALORE, India** — The buzz of grim conversation in the darkened room was broken by a man's shriek as the small body was lowered on a bed. "My son, my king!" wailed Venkatesh, hugging the limp shrouded bundle.

Thousands of miles away in Indonesia, farmer Yusya Yusan aimlessly searched the beaches for his two children lost in Sunday's tsunami. "My life is over," he said emotionally.

In country after country, children have emerged as the biggest victims of Sunday's quake-born tsunami — thousands and thousands drowned, battered and washed away by huge walls of water that have wiped away huge number from an entire generation of Asians.

"The power of this earthquake, and its huge geographical reach, are still staggering," said UNICEF Executive Director

## Children emerging as the biggest victims of tsunamis; disease expected to kill more

Carol Bellamy. Hundreds of thousands of children who managed to survive in the affected coastal communities now "may be in serious jeopardy," she added.

The U.N. organization estimates at least one-third of the tens of thousands who died were children, and the proportion could go up to half, said UNICEF spokesman Alfred Ironside in New York. He said communities are suffering a double loss: dead children and orphaned boys and girls. "Our major concern is that the kids who survived the tsunami now survive the aftermath. Because children are the most vulnerable to disease and lack of proper nutrition and water."

Children make up at least half of the population in Asia. Many of them work along

side poverty-stricken parents in the fishing or related industries in coastal areas, so they were in harm's way when the tsunami came. Many children from the more affluent families also would have been on the beaches for a stroll or for Sunday picnics.

In Sri Lanka, which suffered the biggest loss of life, crowds had come to the beaches to watch the sea after word spread that it was producing larger-than-normal waves.

Thousands of children joined their elders to see the spectacle. The waves brought in fish. The old and the young collected them. Many waited for more fun.

Then the 15- to 20-foot waves hit the tropical island of 19 million people.

"They got caught and could not run to safety. This is the reason why we have so

many child victims," said Rienze Perera, a police spokesman who said reports from affected police stations indicated children died up about half the victims in Sri Lanka.

On Monday, parents wept over the bodies of their children in streets and hospitals across the island, even as some dead children still dangled unclaimed from barbed wire fences.

The scenes of unimagined grief and mourning were repeated across Asia.

"Where are my children?" wept 41-year-old Ahsah, as she searched for her 11 missing children in Banda Aceh, the Indonesian city closest to Sunday's epicenter.

On the day disaster struck, Malaysian Rosita Wan recalled watching in horror as her 5-year-old son was gulped by the sea while he swam near the shore at Penang. "I could only watch helplessly while I heard my son screaming for help. Then he was underwater and I never saw him again," said a sobbing Rosita, 30.



**PHUKET INTER HOSPITAL/AP**  
**Hannes Bergstroem is recovering in a Thai hospital since he was found alone after the tsunami. His uncle has since joined him.**

## Toddler ID'd as parents still missing

The Associated Press

**BANGKOK, Thailand** — A blond two-year-old found sitting alone on a road in Thailand who was taken to a hospital was reunited with his uncle, who saw the boy's picture on the hospital's Web site.

A man who identified himself only as Jim said Tuesday that the child was his nephew.

"When I saw Hannes on the Internet, I booked an air ticket to come here in less than five hours," he said.

Jim arrived at Phuket International Hospital from Chonburi late Monday night from the city of Chonburi.

He said five relatives from Goteborg, Sweden, were on a monthlong vacation in Thailand when the waters struck. Hannes' mother and grandmother were missing; his father and grandfather were in another hospital, the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet reported.

Hospital staff put pictures of Hannes on the hospital Web site. The staff said he was found sitting on a road not far from the town of Khao Lak.

## U.S. agency adding \$20M to relief efforts

The Associated Press

The U.S. Agency for International Development prepared Tuesday to add \$20 million to an initial \$15 million contribution for Asian earthquake relief as Secretary of State Colin Powell bristled at a United Nations official's suggestion that the United States has been "stingy."

A senior U.S. official told The Associated Press the increased aid figure was bound to be pushed even higher as assessments of the damage from the biggest earthquake in 40 years are received.

The Pentagon is preparing a supplemental relief operation and pre-stocked supplies of shelter, food and water bags are on their way to Indonesia from Dubai, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The United States has given more aid in the last four years than any other nation in the combination of nations in the world," Powell said when asked about the comments Monday by Jan Egeland, the U.N. humanitarian aid chief.

Other aid agencies were struggling to organize what may be the world's largest and most complex relief effort — responding to a swathe of death and destruction across 11 countries that the United Nations described as unprecedented.

Egeland, who is in charge of emergency relief coordination, said the disaster had caused "many billions of dollars" of damage, and could be the costliest in history.

Relief organizations used to dealing with one or two crises in the world at a time now have 11 disaster zones, tens of thousands of unburied bodies, millions of people left homeless and the risk of mass outbreaks of disease.

"This is unprecedented," said Yvette Stevens, an emergency relief coordinator of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Almost all of the nations hit were poor and developing, and will be largely reliant on outside help to cope.



**AP**  
**From left, Kanthi Goonewardena, Emilin Mardenborough, Lalani Chanrika and Mervin Goonewardena pour water into a cup Monday during a ceremony for the departed at the New York Buddhist Vihara, a Buddhist temple in Queens, N.Y., where supplies are being collected to aid victims of the earthquake and tsunami.**

## American families of victims wait, help

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Throughout the city, relatives of people in 11 countries tried to get through to their children and husbands and their three children in Sri Lanka, on the island of Sumatra.

He finally reached his brother in Jakarta via military communications. The news was not good: Their sister's house in Sigli was destroyed, and the family had not been found. But the brothers still hoped the five might have survived.

Waruna Buwaneka, president of the New York-based United Sri Lanka Society, said he finally reached his mother late Sunday.

Some nations will be expected to take on more of the burden of relief efforts, said the United Nations, which is coordinating with organizations including the International Red Cross.

"A country like India has a lot

of capacity while making phone calls around the clock to get news of their loved ones."

A day after the disaster, Zainuddin tried to get through to his sister, her husband and their three children in Sigli, on the island of Sumatra.

He finally reached his brother in Jakarta via military communications. The news was not good: Their sister's house in Sigli was destroyed, and the family had not been found. But the brothers still hoped the five might have survived.

Waruna Buwaneka, president of the New York-based United Sri Lanka Society, said he finally reached his mother late Sunday.

Meanwhile, relief supplies were starting to trickle into the region's devastated nations.

"I was so relieved when I heard her voice. She and my sister are OK," the Queens resident said.

In Queens' Parkside Hill neighborhood, the New York Buddhist Vihara temple became a hub for many of the 4,500 Sri Lankans living in the metropolitan area.

A steady stream of people, including neighbors and strangers, arrived with bags holding everything from summer clothing and blankets to canned food and plastic cutlery.

"I'm so shocked, I just had to do something," said Tilak Fonseka.

Verena Dobnik of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

The Red Cross in Nairobi, Kenya, which has launched an appeal for \$6.6 million — said in a statement that a plane carrying 105 tons of blankets, medicines and tarps for 50,000 people was headed Tuesday to Sri Lanka.

# Crash grounds planes in Kabul

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Flights were suspended at Kabul airport on Tuesday after a cargo plane crashed when its landing gear failed, officials said. None of the six crewmembers were injured.

Engineers were trying to remove the damaged plane from the runway.

Ghulam Ali Tamur, general director of the Afghan capital's airport, said the plane, belonging to the British Gulf company, suffered a technical problem and its landing gear had failed to come down, forcing it to land on its bodywork at around 9 a.m.

"Of course there's some damage to the airplane, but there's no damage to other airplanes at the airport," he told The Associated Press.

He gave no further details, such as where the plane had embarked from and what cargo it was carrying.

Abdul Rahman, an official at the national carrier, Ariana Afghan Airlines, said the plane, a small Antonov, had six crew, including two pilots.

He said all flights were suspended at the airport as engineers tried to remove the plane from the runway, which he expected to take at least another hour, although with snow falling, flights were likely to be postponed anyway.

# Saddam's billions possibly smuggled

BY EDITH M. LEDEBER  
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Paul Volcker, who is heading an investigation of alleged corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program, said in an interview that most of the money illegally obtained by Saddam Hussein was from smuggling, which was known by the U.N. Security Council but not stopped.

In the interview set for broadcast Tuesday with Alhurra, the U.S. government-backed television station tailored for Arab audiences, Volcker questioned the reliability of reports that Saddam diverted amounts ranging from \$1.7 billion to \$21 billion from the \$60 billion oil-for-food program.

The former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman said there was a lot of confusion between money from smuggling and money obtained illegally under the oil-for-food program, and he refused to give any estimates.

"The big figures that you see in

## Investigator: Majority of illegal money not from oil-for-food deal

the press, which are sometimes labeled oil-for-food — the big figures are smuggling, which took place before the oil-for-food program started and it continued while the oil-for-food program was in place," he said, according to a transcript obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

The Security Council authorized the oil-for-food program to help Iraqis cope with U.N. sanctions imposed after Saddam's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Launched in December 1991, it allowed the former Iraqi regime to sell oil provided the money went primarily to buy humanitarian goods and pay reparations to victims of the 1991 Gulf War.

Saddam's government decided on the goods it wanted, who should provide them, and who could buy Iraqi oil — but the Security

Council committee overseeing sanctions monitored the contracts.

In a report in October, top U.S. weapons investigator Charles Duelfer said Saddam was able to "subvert" the oil-for-food program to generate an estimated \$1.7 billion in revenue outside U.N. control from 1997-2003. In addition, Iraq brought in over \$8 billion in illicit oil deals with Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Egypt through smuggling or illegal pumping from 1991-2003 when sanctions were in place, he said.

U.S. congressional investigators reported in November that Saddam made more than \$21.3 billion in illegal revenue — over \$13 billion from smuggling and about \$8 billion by subverting the oil-for-food program.

"Without question, [there

were] problems in the oil-for-food area," Volcker said. "But when you look at those \$10 billion figures, or \$20 billion figures, most of those numbers are so-called smuggling, much of which was known and taken note of by the Security Council, but not stopped."

Volcker refused to speculate on why the council didn't stop the smuggling, but indicated the issue likely would be addressed in his reports. An initial report is expected in January and a final report in the summer, he said.

Volcker stressed that the investigation isn't just focusing on whether U.N. officials may be guilty of corruption, he said, but on other issues: Did U.N. officials follow proper procedures? Was there "bad administration rather than corrupt administration?" What were the directions from the Security Council, and what was its responsibility?

But Volcker said the investigation can't avoid the question of smuggling, including why the Security Council didn't take action to stop it.



A supporter of Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko shouts Monday during a rally in Kiev's main Independence Square with a Polish flag in the background.

## Yushchenko declared winner in Ukrainian presidential election

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko won Ukraine's presidential election by more than two million votes, election officials said Tuesday.

The Central Election Commission said Yushchenko won 51.99 percent to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's 44.19 percent, according to its final preliminary vote tally — a difference of about 2.3 million votes.

Yanukovich has refused to concede defeat and says he will appeal to the Supreme Court in a bid to overturn the result. His camp says it has filed nearly 5,000 complaints about Sunday's balloting.

A similar legal challenge by Yushchenko following the fraud-tainted Nov. 21 second-round runoff proved successful, leading to Sunday's unprecedented third round.

President Leonid Kuchma, in the runup to Sunday's vote, urged both candidates to accept the official result and not appeal. And the Council of Europe, the continent's top human rights watchdog, also called on Yanukovich on Tuesday to accept defeat.

"I call on all parties to accept the verdict of the ballot box and to refrain from rhetoric which may fuel division in Ukraine," said Terry Davis, the council's secretary general.

Ukraine's east-west divide has deepened during the bitter and protracted election campaign.

The Russian-speaking, heavily industrialized east backed Yanukovich, while cosmopolitan Kiev and the nationalistic west supported Yushchenko.

Yushchenko has said he will aim to end the hostility between eastern and western Ukraine within two years.

"The problem is that a system has been created in which some [business] clans hold colossal power," Yushchenko said in an interview published Tuesday by Russian daily Izvestia, referring to eastern Ukraine.

"This is an Asiatic model of oligarchic rule."

Yushchenko said his first mission in office would be a trip to Moscow to try and fix "deformed" ties between the two nations.

"We can and must turn this page if we are friends and are prepared to look one another in the eye," Yushchenko said.

Moscow aggressively supported Yanukovich in the first two rounds of voting in November, and is nervous about the eastward expanding EU and NATO. Russia is a giant investor in Ukrainian business, and Ukraine is a key consumer of Russian goods.

Yushchenko said both countries needed a better working relationship.

"Russia is Ukraine's neighbor. It is better to argue twice with your wife than once with your neighbor," Yushchenko told Izvestia, adding that the two nations share Slavic roots, family links, culture and language.

HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR

Holiday Loan?

Visit one of our banking centers for more information.

**CommunityBank**

Operated by **Bank of America** Member FDIC

[www.DoDCommunityBank.com](http://www.DoDCommunityBank.com)

RATES AS LOW AS  
**7.78% APR\***

APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All rates shown reflect a 25% APR rate reduction for automatic payment from your Community Bank checking or savings account. Other rates and terms may apply and will be determined by credit history and loan application. Rates effective October 1, 2004, and further rates may be subject to change without notice. Cash advance is not included.

Example: A 3-year fixed rate \$2,000 unsecured signature loan. Based on a simple interest rate of 7.78%, this loan would have 36 monthly payments of \$61.21 and one final payment of \$61.24 and an annual percentage rate (APR) of 7.78%. This example assumes automatic deduction of the loan payment from a Community Bank checking account. Increase the rate and APR by .25% if you choose not to use automatic payment.

## IN THE STATES

## Nasty weather causes trouble on Calif. coast

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A powerful storm moved along the coast Tuesday, causing highway-blocking mudslides, flooding and power outages. Up to a foot of rain was possible in one mountain area.

Police said the weather may have contributed to the death of a young man who apparently tried to surf in 10- to 12-foot waves.

"It's really rough out there," said Paul Cole, a fire official at Half Moon Bay, describing the surf where the young man was found.

Highway flooding caused traffic accidents early Tuesday in Ventura and Los

## Snow in north, rain in south lead to floods, power outages, mudslides and deadly surf

Angeles counties. A mudslide in Santa Barbara County closed northbound lanes of Highway 101, backing up traffic for about 20 miles, said Danette Ylarri, a dispatch supervisor for the California Highway Patrol.

Southern California Edison said about 10,000 customers complained of lasting power outages. "The coastal communities within five miles of the coast are taking quite a pounding," utility spokesman Mar-

lon Walker said.

Meteorologists said up to 12 inches of rain was possible by afternoon in the mountains above Santa Barbara, with 10 inches predicted in the mountains and foothills surrounding the Los Angeles Basin.

Flash flood watches were issued for Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

The storm already had caused similar problems in northern California.

Two to 4 feet of snow was possible at high elevations of the eastern Sierra Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area, the National Weather Service said.

On Monday, San Francisco was hit by more than 3 inches of rain that delayed flights at San Francisco International Airport. City officials gave away up to 10 free sandbags per household to help deal with the flooding.

North of San Francisco, Marin County got 6 inches of rain.

Meteorologists forecast unstable, wet weather through next week — with rain possible for the Rose Parade on New Year's Day. It hasn't rained on the Rose Parade since 1955.

## Alleged samples selling

PHILADELPHIA — Federal prosecutors have charged three pharmacists and two doctors with selling hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of drug samples that were supposed to have been given to patients for free.

Prosecutors in criminal cases filed Monday accused the doctors of selling pharmacists thousands of free pills given to them by pharmaceutical companies as part of promotional programs.

The pharmacists then punched the pills out of their sample-size packets and mingled them with other medications for resale to patients, the government claimed.

The defendants face fines and potential jail time if convicted.

## Tax shelter scheme

SEATTLE — A federal jury convicted six people Monday in a tax shelter scheme that helped 1,500 people take \$120 million in false income tax deductions from 1997 to 2001.

After a seven-week trial, the six defendants were convicted of conspiracy to defraud the government, mail fraud, wire fraud, money laundering, and aiding and assisting the filing of false tax returns.

## Governor may sue

HARTFORD, Conn. — Gov. M. Jodi Bell underwent breast-cancer surgery Monday after doctors discovered the disease in its very early stages, the governor's office said.

Reil, 58, the former lieutenant governor, became governor in July after John Rowland resigned amid threats of impeachment and a federal corruption investigation.

## Marijuana research

CLEMSON, S.C. — A Clemson University team of researchers is looking at ways to get the medical benefits found in marijuana without getting bogged down in the politics of the drug.

Chemist John Huffman is leading the team, working on synthetic versions of the substances that provide the same medical benefits of marijuana without the effects such as an unwanted high or lung damage.

From The Associated Press

## GOP wants Wash. county voter lists

## Disputed region gave Democrats win in race for governor

By DAVID AMMONS

The Associated Press

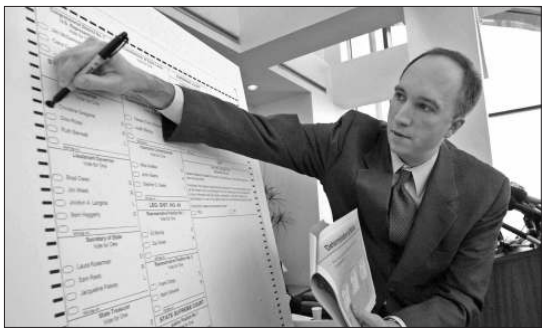
OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington Republicans, girding for a possible court challenge of Democrat Christine Gregoire's razor-thin victory for governor, on Monday demanded a list of the 900,000 who cast ballots in vote-rich, problem-plagued King County.

Democrats accused the Republicans of being on "a fishing expedition" and urged them to concede or face the public's wrath for dragging out an election already eight weeks old.

Republican state Chairman Chris Vance said his party and other backers of GOP candidate Dino Rossi have nagging questions about the vote count in the county that tipped the race to Gregoire by a scant 130 votes last week.

"We want to know who voted in the election, and it's hard to know where we go from here [with a possible court challenge] before we get some answers," Vance said in an interview.

"We're mostly posing questions. King County is where we saw the votes changing. King County is the one county that was allowed to take ballots that were declared dead in November and bring them back to life in December."



Dan Brady, lead ballot counting observer in King County for the Washington state Republican party, uses an enlarged sample of a ballot Monday to explain what he believes are discrepancies in vote counting during a news conference in Seattle. King County is the center of debate in the hotly contested governor's race.

He stopped short of committing to a court challenge of the election results. Some party activists worry that further litigation and delay could rebound on the GOP and damage Rossi's political future.

Vance declined to say whether he's advising a court fight, but said "Overwhelmingly, from the grass roots of the party, the feeling is 'Don't give up. Keep fighting.'"

But he said there's no rush,

since any voter can contest the election within 10 days after certification.

"Right now, we need information. We don't need to rush. Now that we're past Christmas and past the shock [of losing in the recount], people are able to focus on what comes next."

The latest tally included 732 disputed ballots from King County, a Democratic stronghold that in-

cludes Seattle and nearly a third of the state electorate.

Those ballots were challenged by the GOP, but the state Supreme Court last week ruled that the county could legally consider them. The ballots had been mistakenly thrown out because of problems scanning signatures into a computer.

Gene Johnson of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Improved fuel tank paves way for NASA launch

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a major step toward resuming launches of the space shuttle, NASA officials said Tuesday they have completed improvements that will prevent the falling debris problem that destroyed space shuttle Columbia and killed seven astronauts.

The first improved and redesigned tank will be further tested at Kennedy Space Center, mounted on space shuttle Discovery

and readied for a launch in May or June, officials said.

Sandy Coleman, NASA's external project manager, said that testing of improvements on the tank "gives us confidence that problems like what happened on Columbia will not happen again."

"This is the safest, most reliable tank NASA has ever produced," Coleman said Tuesday in a telephone news conference from the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The changes in the external tank add less than 150 pounds in weight. The added costs are still being tallied, said Coleman. The old style fuel tanks cost about \$40 million.

The external tank contains liquid hydrogen and oxygen, which are the propellants used by the shuttle's main rocket engines during launch. The supercooled propellants cause the formation of ice on the outside of the tank as the shuttle is prepared for launch.

Insulation, applied as a foam, reduces the amount of ice. But investigators believe chunks of the foam insulation peeled off the external tank during launch and led to the destruction of Columbia on Feb. 1, 2003.

Redesign of the external tank was considered to be a key part of NASA's effort to return the shuttle to space, but is only one of a list of recommendations from the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.



# Airports testing search methods

The Associated Press

GRAPEVINE, Texas — Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport is one of 16 airports chosen nationwide to test equipment that expands the use of security technology and may limit the need for pat-down searches, officials said.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration did not say what equipment or procedure the airport would test or when testing would begin, but nine other airports have been chosen to test two machines designed to check airline passengers for explosives.

The technology could limit the need for pat-down searches many women say are intrusive because they require screeners to feel between and around the breasts when passengers get over a metal detector.

The first test is a walk-through portal that blows a puff of air on passengers and then analyzes the air for explosive traces.

The second, a backscatter X-ray, moves screeners to see through clothing for dense objects, such as plastic explosives. Earlier versions of the X-ray drew criticism because the images were too revealing; new models use a generic body diagram.

"The technology is a much more advanced procedure to detect the very threats that we look at for manual pat-downs," said Andrea McCauley, a TSA spokeswoman.

The testing is part of the intelligence reform bill, which urged the security administration to expand the use of explosive-detection equipment and other measures.

The bill also calls for more research into cargos that can withstand a blast, systems that counter shoulder-fired missiles and the discreet notification of pilots about security breaches in the airplane cabin.

The test sites were chosen based on the number of passengers, geographic location, proximity to a manufacturer, congressional interest, checkpoint design and the airport's experience testing new equipment.

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport is the nation's third-busiest airport and already is testing explosives-detection machines, used commonly on checked luggage, at the airport's cargo facilities.

# Report: Security priorities ignored

## Homeland security money not allocated to top needs, watchdog says

By SAM HANANEL  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Homeland Security Department has allowed federal grants for improving security at America's ports to be spent on low-priority problems rather than the most serious vulnerabilities, the agency's outgoing watchdog says.

In a draft report to be released next month, Homeland Security Department Inspector General Kent E. Evers said port security spending should be governed by the most pressing priorities rather than local politics.

Blaming inadequate staffing and poor coordination, Evers said the department's port security grant program needs better oversight to make sure projects that get money meet security goals.

"The DHS does not have a strong grant evaluation process in place by which to address post-award administration issues, including measuring progress in accomplishing DHS' grant objectives," Evers said in a recent summary of the report.

The summary was contained in another report from Evers's office, "Major Mission Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security," which was posted on the DHS web site.

The grant program has been criticized in the past for being too cumbersome and for awarding money to projects of questionable use.

To make his point, Evers cited the report of the Sept. 11 commission, which said homeland security spending should not be used as a "pork barrel" for politicians to send money to their home districts.

The report is the last submitted by Evers, who earned a reputation as a blunt critic of the department before leaving the job earlier in the month. Evers won a recess appointment to the position in December 2003, but the Senate failed to confirm him and the White House appeared unlikely to nominate him again.

DHS spokesman Brian Roelofs said he declined to comment until the full report is completed, but said the department had streamlined its grant processes earlier this year.

"We have made progress in integrating all of the previous disparate grant programs from the agencies that created DHS into one office in the department that is ensuring all grant dollars are maximized and spent according to a strategy outlining the greatest needs," Roelofs said.

DHS manages several grant programs, totaling about \$10 billion last year, that provide money for disaster preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. The agency has distributed about \$560 million for port security over the past few years.

Despite consolidation of the grant program offices, Evers said "much work remains to be done" and noted that department officials planned to increase staff to allow for more site visits and improved oversight of grant-funded projects.

Robert Ashbaugh, spokesman for acting Inspector General Richard L. Skinner, said the report has been circulated to officials in the agency for comments.

"They will have an opportunity to provide a response and state whether they agree to take corrective action," Ashbaugh said.

# Investigation ordered into airlines canceling flights over holidays

By DAVID B. CARUSO  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The nation's top transportation official ordered an investigation of two airlines that canceled hundreds of flights over the holiday weekend because of computer and staffing problems, stranding thousands of travelers.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta asked the agency's inspector general to investigate the difficulties at US Airways and Delta subsidiary Comair, which had to ground 1,100 flights Saturday because of a computer problem.

Mineta said Monday in a letter to the agency's inspector general that people "must learn from the situations" to make sure they do not happen again.

US Airways Group Inc. was forced to cancel hundreds of flights and strand thousands of passengers between Thursday and Sunday because about triple the usual number of flight attendants called in sick.

Adding to US Airways' woes, another wave of high-numbered baggage handlers at Philadelphia's airport failed to report to work, the airline said, and the remaining staff became overwhelmed by a mountain of luggage.

Operations at the bankrupt company returned to near-normal on Monday, although workers were still trying to reunite people with their bags.

Comair also was returning to normal, with only eight of its flights listed as delayed Tuesday on the monitors at Cincinnati's Northern Kentucky International Airport, where the airline

is based. Rows of luggage not yet delivered to owners had diminished considerably from Monday, when they stretched longer than a football field.

Arletta Shores was supposed to fly home to Guyton, Okla., on Tuesday, but her Comair flight out of Cincinnati was postponed to Wednesday. That followed a series of cancellations last week that meant she didn't arrive in Cincinnati until Saturday, two days late.

"I always have problems when I fly — a canceled flight, lost luggage," Shores said Tuesday.

Comair officials did not immediately return phone messages Tuesday seeking an update on flights.

Comair President Randy Rademacher promised cooperation with the DOT probe.

Union leaders at US Airways continued to blame thin staffing, denying that workers had staged a sickout to penalize the company for slashing their pay.

"We are so short-staffed, if there is spit on the runway in Philadelphia, it causes a fiasco," said Teddy Xidas, president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Association of Flight Attendants.

Of about 1,675 flight attendants scheduled to work Thursday, Friday and Saturday, about 300 called in sick daily, more than expected based on past holidays, US Airways spokesman Chris Chimes said. The carrier usually plans for about 100 such absences.

"To suggest it was somehow a staffing issue on our part is to shift attention away from the employees who chose to do this," Chimes said.



Jacque Martin-Dowds, of Detroit, looks for her luggage Monday at the baggage claim area inside the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Hebron, Ky., as airlines struggled to recover from delays and mix-ups caused by Comair's holiday weekend cancellations.

# Experts: Technology available to stop airline computer issues

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The cancellation of 1,100 Christmas Day flights by Comair because of computer troubles is prompting calls for more investments in backup systems and other technologies to prevent further groundings and damage to an already struggling industry.

The foul-up was hardly the first. A computer glitch grounded 40 Delta flights in May. A power failure created a computer problem that forced Northwest to cancel more than 120 flights in July. A worker keystroke error grounded or delayed some American and US Airways flights in August.

"Obviously, the airlines have become way too dependent on computers," said Terry Trippier, an airline industry expert in Minneapolis.

Bruce Schneider, a computer security expert in Mountain View, Calif., said the issue boils down to cost versus benefit.

Airlines could upgrade existing computers to handle more transactions, install sophisticated backup systems that come on when the primary system fails or buy high-performance software that is used by NASA, nuclear plants and medical facilities to keep critical systems running at all times, Schneider said.

"It's certainly feasible, but it's my guess [is] it's not economic," Schneider said. "My guess is it is cheaper for the airline to absorb this loss, which doesn't happen often, than to fix the problem."

Comair spokesman Nick Miller said the Delta subsidiary already had planned to replace its scheduling system with one that can handle more transactions, but the new system was not set to come online until mid-January.

Tim Wagner, spokesman for American Airlines parent AMR Corp. of Fort Worth, Texas, said the carrier already has solidified a backup system to prevent problems like it had faced in August.

## STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher  
 THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe  
 LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commander

## News and Editorial

DAVID MACZARELLA, Executive Director  
 DREW CLARKSON, Managing Editor  
 BOB GRIMSTAFF, Associate Editor  
 BOB ARNHEIM, Editor, Middle East Bureau Chief  
 SCOTT BRUNDES, Middle East Bureau Chief  
 JOE GROSZELSKI, Electronic Editor  
 ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS  
 Sharon Olson, Features Peter Pollock, PhotoGraphics  
 Brian Bowers, Features Sean Moores, Sports

## Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 5480, Apo 96341  
 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 153040, Wiesbaden, Germany  
 FAX: 49-638-8416; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601416  
 E-MAIL: News, news@starsandstripes.com  
 Letters, letters@starsandstripes.com  
 CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1001, Phone (202) 312-763-0900 or (+1) (202) 712-1400 or (+1) (202) 712-763-0900  
 EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Maczarella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1001, Phone (202) 312-763-0945 or (+1) (202) 712-7645  
 OMBUDSMAN: Joe Kelsch, Staff, connected to Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1001, Phone (202) 312-763-0932, fax (+1) (202) 712-7645, or e-mail, ombudsman@starsandstripes.com

## How to call us

Editor: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Editor: (DSN 349-8400; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601400  
 Sports: (DSN 349-8222; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601400  
 Circulation: (DSN 349-8437; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601437  
 Advertising: (DSN 349-8233; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601343)

## News Bureaus

BERMANN: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Bismarck: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Bonn: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Bremerhaven: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Bremen: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Brussels: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Bucharest: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Budapest: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Cairo: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Canberra: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Cardiff: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Copenhagen: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Dallas: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Damascus: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Dayton: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Delhi: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Denver: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Detroit: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Dublin: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Edinburgh: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Eindhoven: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Frankfurt: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Geneva: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Glasgow: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Hamburg: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Harrogate: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Helsinki: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Houston: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Indianapolis: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Istanbul: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Jacksonville: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Jerusalem: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Johannesburg: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 London: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Los Angeles: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Luxembourg: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Madrid: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Manchester: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Manila: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Miami: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Milan: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Minneapolis: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Moscow: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Mumbai: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Naples: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Nassau: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 New York: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Nicosia: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Oslo: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Ottawa: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Paris: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Perth: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Philadelphia: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Phoenix: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Pittsburgh: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Portland: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Prague: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Raleigh: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Rome: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Sacramento: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 St. Louis: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 San Francisco: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 San Jose: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Seattle: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Singapore: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Skopje: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Sofia: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Stockholm: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Taipei: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Tallinn: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Tampa: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Tel Aviv: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 The Hague: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Thessaloniki: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Tokyo: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Toronto: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Trieste: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Tucson: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Tulsa: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Umeå: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Utrecht: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Vaduz: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Vancouver: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Vienna: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Vilnius: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Washington DC: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Warsaw: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Wellington: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Westport: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Wichita: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Windsor: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Winnipeg: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Yerevan: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Zagreb: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237  
 Zurich: (DSN 349-8237; fax (+49) (0) 6155-601237

## Columnist misses point

Jack Kelly's column "In Kuwait, Rumsfeld didn't let his Guard down" (Dec. 13), misses the point of the troop complaints completely, and accepts without question administration excuses. On the same day on another page of Stars and Stripes, we read that the provider of up-armored Humvees can actually make 100 more of them a month.

If Kelly was not a partisan hack, he could ask questions like: Why has the Pentagon not contracted with Armor Holdings Inc. to work at full capacity? Is this one company the only one in the United States capable of making M114s? If we are in a state of war, why has the government not acted like it every wartime government in our nation's history and stepped in to coordinate our nation's history for wartime purposes?

Instead, Kelly argues that the Army is built to let the Soviets on the plains of Europe. "Any" anyone who has picked up a newspaper or watched a Pentagon news conference in the last decade knows that this is no longer true. Low-level combat has been regarded as the "next war" for at least a decade. That is why the Pentagon developed the Striker and fought to kill the Crusader. This is what Donald Rumsfeld's "transformation" was all about.

In a sense, Rumsfeld was right when he said that "you go to war with the Army you have." However, the Army we have in Iraq is a result of the failure to plan for the highest levels. Dismissing intelligence reports to the contrary, Rumsfeld and company went to war under the impression that Iraqis would welcome us occupiers with flowers and smiles. This is the real reason we were not prepared for the insurgency — dismissing diverging views, the Pentagon refused to listen to the dissenters.

The fact that not every intelligence has been due to deal with the shortages (half-offers to increase production and leaving behind armor when deploying) suggests decisions to paper the best protection possible, and that the insurgency is a passing phase, and always "on its last legs."

This is what the soldiers in Kuwait knew and complained about, and this is what the people responsible must answer for.

Marcin Daniluk  
 Baghdad

## Poor armored-vehicles policy

I would like to address the recent publicity regarding the lack of armored vehicles in Iraq. I have served in Iraq for the last year. When we came north, we drove from Kuwait to Baghdad without a single armored vehicle. We pieced together sheets of metal to protect the best protection possible, but all knew that it would do little good.

My company does at least weekly convoys from Najaf to Baghdad, and still we have only managed to get a couple of armored trucks to help support those convoys. We have driven enough miles to go back and forth to Kuwait at least 20 times, if not more. During that time, we have been shot at, had roadside bombs go off on us and faced every other type of danger. And yet another war is not a major issue.

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

## Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: International mail: Stars and Stripes Unit 5480, Apo 96341  
 Postfach 153040, Wiesbaden, Germany

Via fax: (Country code +49) (0) 6155-601395; DSN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mail.starsandstripes.com

Now that my year here in Iraq is over and I am trying to go home, I am being told that we can't drive to Kuwait because we don't have armored vehicles. I am also told that it will take a while to get enough trucks to line-haul everything south. Don't get me wrong, the line-haul trucks have saved my butt a few times, but it infuriates me to be told that, after risking my life countless times on the road to attend meetings and other events, I can't risk it one more time to go home and finally be away from danger.

I can understand that soldiers don't want to enter Iraq without armor. They are right; it's dangerous. But ask anyone who has been here for a while, and none of them will complain. We have done our time and faced our danger. Don't hold up more troops from going home just because a soldier wants to complain about a shortage of armor that has existed here for two years. Stop your whining and do your job.

Sgt. Troy Ward  
 Camp Cooke, Iraq

## Sigonella housing the best

My family has been stationed in Sigonella, Sicily, for three-plus years, and resides in the "distint" Minor housing ("Hospital rules, housing really clash in Sigonella," article, Dec. 10). I highly encourage anyone looking at Naval Air Station Sigonella for his/her next duty station to jump on the opportunity.

Sigonella ranks at the top of the list of theater bases. We have one of the largest Navy Exchange/commissary complexes. The food court is the largest I've seen and offers a nice selection of fast food. The hospital has a wonderful staff! We have a movie theater that shows multiple movies per night, a bowling alley, base club/galley/sym for all hands, and library with a snack bar.

No one likes being told where they will live, but being in the military means being flexible. The housing situation (living conditions) are required to live in is not substantial. The houses are a cross between a town-house and an Italian condo. Each has a private, fenced-in back yard, equipped

with washer and dryer, outlets for 110/220-volt appliances and a carport. Both communities are guarded by security.

"Mimeo," the "distint" housing, has a commissary open seven days a week; a snack bar; video rental store; gym open 24/7; community recreation center; self-help center; basketball, tennis and roller-hockey courts; baseball/football field; playgrounds; and a firehouse manned 24/7. Kids are bused to school in charter buses. Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers year-round sporting activities. AMW makes accommodations for the residents whenever possible by creating "Mimeo" sports teams to keep practices close to home.

My husband works for security. The amount of time he spends between work/commissary exceeds 12 hours a day, and may exceed five days/week depending on the security level. However, he can rest assured that his family is in one of the best communities, and he is attached to a base determined to offer its families the best quality of life.

With the current war on terrorism and families displaced around the world, I have a lot to be thankful for during my overseas tour.

Cynthia Cross  
 Sigonella, Sicily

## Blood-donation info wrong

In the article "Malaria season needs end in Iraq" (Midweek edition, Dec. 15), certain wrong information about service-members' ability to donate blood. The article quotes the immunization noncommissioned officer in charge at the Troop Medical Clinic at Logistics Support Area Anzani as saying that troops cannot donate blood because of anti-malaria medication they have taken. This is wrong: They cannot donate because they might have live malaria parasites in their blood without knowing it. Because it can take awhile for the disease to show itself, troops who might have been exposed to [it] are deferred from donating blood for one year as a precaution.

The article quotes the same soldier as saying that troops cannot donate blood in the civilian sector for three years, but can donate at other troops who have been taking anti-malaria medication. Also wrong: Troops are deferred from donating blood to anyone for one year when they have served in a malaria-endemic area for less than five years. If they were in a malaria-endemic area for more than five years, they cannot give blood for three years.

These deferral standards are based on [Food and Drug Administration] regulations and apply to the Armed Services Blood Program as well as to civilian blood programs. Anti-malaria medication that troops take does not stop their ability to donate blood. It protects them from a dangerous, sometimes fatal, disease.

Readers may visit the Web site www.treasureofusafsbpo for accurate information on blood donation.

Navy Cmdr. Michael C. Libby  
 Director, Armed Services Blood Program  
 Falls Church, Va.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury

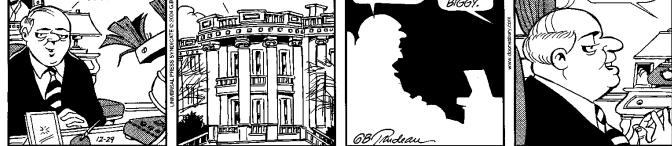
MR. PRESIDENT, IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK ON THE TEAM AGAIN. I'M MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU!

WELL, JIM, I'M GOING TO NEED A STRONGER COUNTERY OF TODAY AFFAIRS. ANYTHING WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IN YOUR BACKGROUND?

UH, WELL, I'M STILL BEING INVESTIGATED FOR INSIDER TRADING...

WELL, SO WHAT? I'M NOT A BIGGY.

NOT? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TAKING 'EM HAVE YOU?



## OPINION

## Christian influence on U.S. can't be erased

By STAR PARKER

Scripps Howard News Service

**T**he holiday season brings an element of predictability each year into our otherwise-tumultuous lives. We know what to expect: parties, food, shopping, resolutions and debates on cable shows about the constitutionality of public displays of nativity scenes.

So what about it? Is Christmas itself unconstitutional? Is it a religious holiday? Is it once-religious holiday that we retain because it rivals tax cuts as a stimulant to economic activity? Do we keep Christmas as a national holiday for practical reasons? Surveys indicate that roughly 80 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christians. The country couldn't function if, on Dec. 25 each year, 8 out of 10 Americans took the day off.

I think the discussions we Americans have with ourselves every year about Christmas and religion and the Constitution remind elements of self-delusion. Christmas is clearly a Christian event. Although the various means and symbols through which the holiday is celebrated have different histories and traditions, they are all associated with Christianity.

The Christmas trees that stand on the nation's ellipse and in the White House do not stand in Tel Aviv or Tokyo or Cairo. We delude ourselves to think that it is possible to remove all religious content from Christmas or that Americans want to. So, instead, we fend off relentless American Civil Liberties Union assaults, make concessions here and there, and tacitly go on every year doing

what we supposedly in principle can't do — recognizing the inseparability of the values that Christians brought to this land from our national being and identity.

There is the notion that a free society is a society of law and not of men. The founders of our country did as good a job as humanly possible to construct a constitutional foundation that gives our nation these characteristics. Legal barriers stand at every corner that prevent intrusion of a person on the life, liberty and property of others.

But, as we can see from experience and from what is going on today, it is impossible to have a society that is totally insulated from human judgment and values. The most beautifully constructed legal system will still need human judges to interpret the laws, and human elected officials to govern and administer.

The words may say that "All men are created equal," but we have had contentious times in our nation's history defining who is a man and what is equal. The words may say "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," but we have bitter debates today about defining life.

Certainly the drafters of our constitution would never have dreamt that one day the definition of marriage would be a point of contention. So, in truth, we have a society of laws and men.

Perhaps we can say that, at minimum, Christmas is one day we Americans insist on setting aside to remind ourselves that who we are as a nation goes beyond the particular laws we have, but also reflects who we choose to be in the coming years...

Our laws assure that no one can prevent



others from "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But our values dictate what we do with these freedoms we protect. Our laws protect us from the worst, but our values point the way to our best.

It is good that, in our free society, our values are constantly challenged. It forces us to readress them and get back in touch with them. As I stood in a crowded line of Christmas shoppers in a department store the other day, I couldn't help but see irony as impatient customers berated the poor elderly

gentleman fumbling with the computerized cash register he was trying to operate. If this is what Christmas has become, perhaps we should let the ACLU declare victory and pack away our ornaments.

Americans will not relinquish Christmas because of an inherent knowledge and conviction that the greatest gift we have is what has been requested to us. To understand that is to be humble and to be free.

Star Parker is president of Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education and author of the recently published book "Uncle Sam's Plantation."

## Put saving lives ahead of our squeamishness on race

**R**ace is one of those topics that few people in polite conversation these days discuss realistically. They fear anything they say will be used against them.

Peter A. Brown

Even when the discussion involves saving lives in a positive way, there is a growing tendency to mouth politically correct platitudes that discourage examining anything along racial lines. Perhaps that is why a potentially huge breakthrough that seems likely to save the lives of thousands of blacks with serious heart disease has gotten a relatively tepid public response.

There has been something of a collective angst about the development of this new drug aimed specifically at blacks. That's because the new drug may be seen in many circles as validating the scientifically questionable notion that there are widespread genetic differences between the races.

However, just as political concerns about offending abortion-rights opponents should not get in the way of stem-cell research, so, too, the societal touchiness about race should not interfere with this promising line of inquiry.

The drug was specifically designed to work on black patients, who generally have a death rate twice that of whites from severe heart disease. In other words, the treatments that have been commonly used are not as effective for blacks as for whites.

Scientists have attributed the higher death rate from heart disease to a variety of factors in the black community: lower-quality medical care, high-cholesterol diets and higher poverty rates. Another reason may

be that, in the past, blacks may not have been involved as subjects in large enough numbers in the clinical trials led to the current treatments.

But because the PC Police are especially active in academic circles, researchers have been loath to examine the question of whether something in the genetic makeup of blacks might lead to the higher death rates.

Now, NitroMed Inc., a suburban Boston company, has come up with a drug, BHD, that in clinical trials reduced deaths among blacks from advanced heart failure by 43 percent. That is, as they say in the science biz, a meaningful result.

It is quite possible that, because the clinical data were confined to studies of black patients, the Food and Drug Administration will approve its use only for blacks. Naturally, some medical ethicists have begun to wring their hands about the unhealthy implications of such data for American society...

The worry is that any research that suggests a genetic basis for characteristics specific to a certain race could be inflammatory.

That is obviously why, for instance, there has been so little scientific investigation into explaining how blacks, who comprise 12 percent of the national population, so dominate professional athletics.

Or why Asian-Americans, who make up roughly 4 percent of our citizenry, are so overrepresented at prestigious colleges. At Harvard they are about 17 percent of the student body, and at the University of California, Berkeley, roughly 40 percent.

The understandable concern is that such analysis on positive achievements might also rear its ugly head relating to less favorable statistics. However, despite those concerns, it would be misguided and dangerous if we allowed such worries to become a legitimate reason to discourage similar research in the medical field. ... Surely the ability to

save many lives — some estimates on this heart-disease drug run as high as 15,000 annually — is worth pursuing some features.

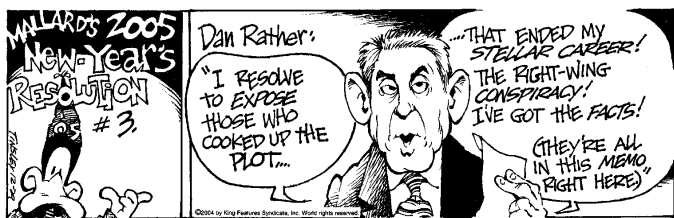
Just as with stem-cell research, if scientists can produce a meaningful benefit from such inquiry, it would be stupid to tie their hands. After all, we know that some ethnic groups are more likely to suffer certain diseases than the general population. Jewish women who trace their ancestors to Eastern Europe are thought to have a higher risk of some breast cancers. Members of the Pima Indian tribe reportedly are more likely to get diabetes.

Doctors theorize that certain genetic combinations, which in some cases may fall along racial or ethnic lines, predispose those people to specific illnesses. If that knowledge allows physicians to find effective treatments for diseases that work primarily for only certain racial or ethnic groups, so be it.

Peter A. Brown is an editorial page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

## Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



©2004 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## YOUR MONEY

## Toy ATM gives new meaning to piggy bank

BY ANN GERHART  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Somewhere in China, frantic factory workers cannot make enough toy automatic teller machines for clamoring American children.

"I wish every kid in America could have an ATM," says Michael Searl, the toy stockbroker who created the Youngiverse ATM Machine, a highly evolved piggy bank that receives and dispenses real cold cash, not that fake play stuff. "Why wouldn't I want every kid to have one?"

Twens and beyond can insert the supplied ATM card into the silver machine, punch in their PIN, be greeted by name on the electronic display, peer into the pretend security camera and wait for that seminal capitalistic moment — when crisp bills miraculously appear, ripe for the plucking. Unlike in a real ATM, a cash drawer opens in the toy ATM, allowing an avaricious child to grab every last cent and run. What do you want for \$24.95? But the machine does automatically count coins.

The concept is so seductive that the Youngiverse ATM is sold out all across the land. About 10,000 flew out of Toys R Us in four days. When the machine made its debut on QVC and the Home Shopping Network, it sold out in three minutes. On eBay, that cyber exemplar of supply and demand, the machine, with its tiny logos mimicking Visa, Master-



The Youngiverse ATM Machine receives and dispenses real cold cash. "We can't make them fast enough," says Michael Searl of his ATM for kids.

Card and American Express, is selling for more than \$70. Searl's Summit Financial Products also makes a highly colored toy armored car, but discontinued its low-tech piggy bank some time back.

He claims he was taken aback by the spike in demand this holiday season for a gizmo he has been making for three years.

"The first year we did only 50,000," he says. "Now, I guess we have done in the neighborhood of 2 million. We can't make

them fast enough."

Betsy Taylor, president of the Center for the New American Dream, a Takoma Park, Md., group advocating responsible consumption, gets the toy ATM's appeal right away.

With credit card debt, personal bankruptcies and the national deficit at an all-time high, says Taylor, "this is one more message that you can get as much as you can as fast as you can. You can play Mom and Dad, and money just falls in your hand."

The machine's popularity is another illustration of how the toy industry is changing. Children are leaving traditional toys behind much sooner than in the past. Last week, No. 2 toy maker Hasbro laid off 125 workers, citing struggles to adapt to a more electronics-driven market. "We're making more of the My Little Ponies and not enough of the Game Boy [type] products," said Hasbro President and CEO Alfred Vrechcia.

The marketers have a term for it: KGOY — "Kids growing older younger." The ATM is a real KGOY toy, says Julie Schor, a Boston University professor who wrote "Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture."

The ATM, marked for ages 8 and up, "is symbolically significant and highly valued — the money machine! It must have a very strong aspirational pull. Using an ATM is one of the things that grown-ups do in full view of kids that the kids have very little access to," says Schor. It's a part of consuming that kids aren't in on. They are full-fledged consumers, buying clothing, picking groceries, selecting toys. ... But they don't have entry into the real ATM."

Her own daughter wants one, badly.

When Schor showed Sulakshana, 9, an online picture of the Youngiverse ATM, her daughter said in an e-mail that she wanted one "because it looks cool. It looks like a real ATM and real ATMs are cool. Real ATMs are amazing because you can put a card in and get money anywhere

there's an ATM."

Searl doesn't worry that he is helping create a generation of money-grubbing children. "Look, they are learning about money whether we teach it to them or not," he says. "If nothing else, we are teaching them one simple concept: You gotta make money before you take money out."

Searl, 45, started his company 10 years ago when he taught money management to youngsters. As a stockbroker, "we went from not making any money to making lots of it, and I had four kids who saw that. But I was terrible teaching them about it. My daughter was 10, and she kept saying, 'Can I have some money?' And I said, 'Ashley, what are you going to do some day when I'm around?' And she said, 'I'll just marry a rich husband, and I said, 'Oooo, this is not good.'"

He manufactured an allowance kit, a plastic bank with three compartments, for savings, spending and investing, with a workbook and a cassette tape. Serious, sensible business.

"We killed it years ago," Searl said. "It just didn't do as well. It was too complicated."

A decade of instant gratification and luxury never later, tween-er life is faster, buzzier, lit up, and ATM banking has moved right into the bedroom, along with the PC, the MP3, the DVDs. "Who knows, perhaps this is how Donald Trump started out," states the press kit for the Youngiverse ATM. "You may even be raising the next Apprentice."

Like we need any more of those.

## MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
	52-Wk High	Low	Last	% Chg
Dow Jones Industrial	10,648.47	9,708.40	10,648.47	+1.08
S&P 500	3,083.75	2,743.46	3,083.75	+0.46
Nasdaq Composite	2,171.27	2,541.11	2,171.27	+0.46
NYSE Composite	7,138.76	6,171.85	7,138.76	+0.46
NYSE Index	1,410.88	1,118.28	1,410.88	+0.46
Nasdaq Composite	2,171.27	1,759.82	2,171.27	+0.46
S&P 500	1,211.36	1,090.72	1,211.36	+0.46
S&P MidCap	546.29	546.29	546.29	+0.46
Russell 2000	650.73	515.90	650.73	+0.46
Dow Jones	11,355.35	10,358.52	11,355.35	+0.46

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Cost	Chg	Name	Vol	Cost	Chg	Name	Vol	Cost	Chg
Pfizer	292827	2.50	+4.3	SPDR	278087	120.52	+2.5	Sinara	1182626	6.10	+1.5
ExxonMobil	213151	0.67	+0.1	Microsoft	27.00	1.35	+0.1	Microsoft	27.00	1.35	+0.1
Capitol	184781	3.62	+4.0	SPDR	123173	32.68	+3.8	Microsoft	55262	26.85	+1.6
NorthH	144605	3.40	+3.2	DW DMS	83916	19.50	+2.3	Sumitomo	422294	5.51	+0.7
ExxonMobil	140405	0.67	+0.1	Microsoft	19.75	1.75	+0.1	Google	368912	23.17	+1.7
TimeWarner	12627	19.44	+3.0	AMGEN	15694	128.35	+3.5	Cisco	327581	19.30	+1.5
SpentOn	24.63	0.07	+0.0	UBS Bank	4232	6.65	+0.1	MSI	105	1.00	+0.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr	44676	35.81	+3.4	Amazon	229481	11.65	+1.1
Genetec	98246	3.95	+3.5	WheatGr							

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
	High	Low	Last	% Chg
Alliant Techsystems	100	97	100	+0.2
Boeing	100	97	100	+0.2
General Dynamics	100	97	100	+0.2
Lockheed Martin	100	97	100	+0.2
Northrop Grumman	100	97	100	+0.2
Raytheon	100	97	100	+0.2
Textron	100	97	100	+0.2
United Technologies	100	97	100	+0.2

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs	\$0.7197
British pound sterling	\$1.91
Japanese yen (Dec. 30)	101.00
South Korean won (Dec. 28)	1,016.00
Commercial rates	
Baharin (Dinar)	\$17.59
British pound	\$1.91
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.2193
Denmark (Krone)	\$6.46
Egypt (Pound)	\$1.3630
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$7.7525
Hungary (Forint)	\$16.80
Iceland (Krona)	\$11.65
Israel (Shekel)	\$3.5599
Japan (Yen)	\$0.0090
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$2.9461
Norway (Krone)	\$5.72
Philippines (Peso)	\$5.72
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$3.59
Singapore (Dollar)	\$1.5400
South Korea (Won)	\$1.0450
Switzerland (Franc)	\$0.7033
Thailand (Baht)	\$5.39
Turkey (Lira)	\$1.3470

NASDAQ	
Microsoft	27.00
Amazon	14.45
Google	12.15
Facebook	11.87
Twitter	10.25
LinkedIn	9.52
Walmart	9.48

(i.e. purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

New York Merc close		
Gold		\$445.20
Silver		\$6.973

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.25
Federal funds market rate	2.3125
3-month bill	2.75
30-year bond	4.92

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of

## To our readers

Jim Coates is on medical leave. His computer account will return in several weeks.

## Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

## Military info online

By NANCY DUNNAN

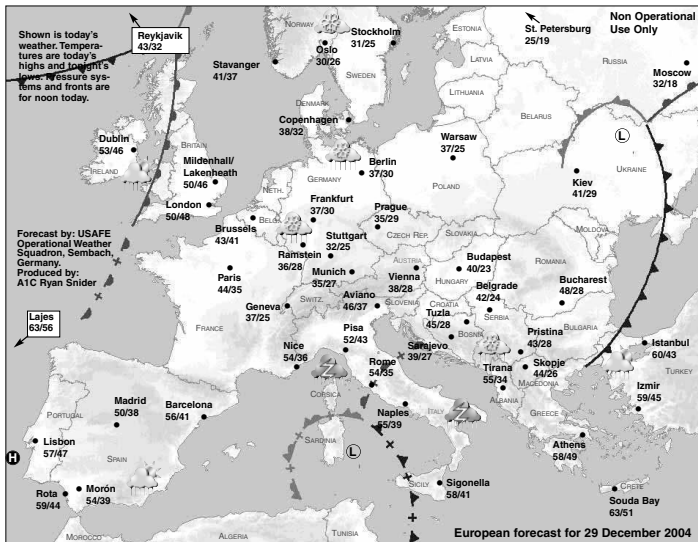
Whether you're active, retired or a prospective member of the Armed Forces, you'll find something of interest at [www.FirstGov.gov](http://www.FirstGov.gov).

The military security of this government Web site covers a wide variety of topics, including current military news, info

on ROTC and everything you need to know about benefits and retirement, family support, training and education, special home loans and life insurance.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50 to \$5,000," she writes a weekly column for [theonlineinvestor.com](http://theonlineinvestor.com).





**Forecast by: USAF  
Operational Weather  
Squadron, Sembach,  
Germany.  
Produced by:  
A1C Ryan Snider**

Operational  
Only

## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Cloudy with rain/snow showers. Highs are in the mid 40s, Thursday lows are in the lower 40s.  
**Britain, Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers, Highs are in the low to mid 50s, Thursday lows are in the mid 40s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy with rain/snow showers. Highs are in the upper 30s to mid 40s, Thursday lows are in the upper 20s.

**France:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain/snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s to mid 40s to mid 50s, Thursday lows are in the mid 30s.

**Northern Germany:** Cloudy with rain/snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s, Thursday lows are in the lower 30s.

**Southern Germany:** Cloudy with rain/snow showers. Highs are in the lower to mid 30s, Thursday lows are in the mid 20s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy rain/snow showers. Highs are in the lower 40s, Thursday lows are in the mid 20s.

**Northern Italy:** Cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs are in the mid 40s to lower 50s, Thursday lows are in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

**Southern Italy:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs are in the mid to upper 50s, Thursday lows are in the

**Kosovo:** Mostly cloudy with morning rainshowers. Highs are in the mid 40s, Thursday lows are in the mid to upper 30s.

**Norway:** Cloudy with snow and rain on the southern coast. Highs are in the lower 30s to lower 40s, Thursday

**Portugal, Spain:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs are in the 50s, Thursday lows are in the upper 20s.

**Turkey:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs will be in the upper 50s to

For current weather updates, warnings

for current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at:  
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:06AM	7:06AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:24AM	8:24AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:05PM	5:05PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:31PM	4:32PM



## AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	81	61	Mogadishu	89	76
Dakar	79	68	Nairobi	82	57
Freetown	89	73	Rabat	61	46

## THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	44	38	Manila	86	73
Bahrain	68	48	Mexico City	68	45
Beijing	26	11	Montreal	23	03
Beirut	73	56	Riyadh	61	40
Bermuda	63	59	Rio de Jan	84	72
Caracas	88	71	Seoul	32	14
Helsinki	36	30	Sofia	40	25
Hong Kong	66	47	Sydney	73	62
Ishion	52	47	Tbilisi	47	39

A map of the Middle East region showing the locations of five cities. The cities and their associated years are: Incirlik 61/37 (in Turkey), Tel Aviv 76/51 (in Israel), Cairo 76/53 (in Egypt), Baghdad 62/38 (in Iraq), and Kuwait 63/45 (in Kuwait). The map also labels the countries: TURKEY, SYRIA, IRAQ, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, and ISRAEL.

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

As of 11:00 AM

Legend:

- High (H)
- Low (L)
- Shower (S)
- Rain (R)
- Snow (S)

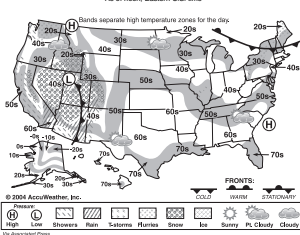
Pressure:

High Low Showers Rain Snow

© 2004 AccuWeather, Inc.

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



*Give the gift of*

# SAFETY

*this holiday season!*

*this holiday season!*

U.S. ARMY IN EUROPE

- Select safe toys with protective gear
- Keep burning candles out of children's reach
- Turn lights off when you go to bed
- Don't overload outlets or transformers

- Choose a fresh or fire-resistant artificial tree
- Decorate the tree with children in mind
- Make sure smoke alarms are operative
- Keep alcohol and poison plants away from children

## 7 stabbed at party

**OH** AKRON — Seven people were stabbed in a fight at a birthday party for a 2-year-old girl, and police said they charged two men with assault.

The little girl was not hurt, police said.

The victims of the melee were hospitalized and at least one victim required surgery, said police Sgt. Terry Hudnall.

Tam T. Nguyen, 25, and Vi Tran, 35, were charged. Nguyen was jailed and Tran was being treated at a hospital for injuries he suffered in the fight, Hudnall said. He said he anticipated more charges would be filed.

Police called to the party said they found men and women with severe knife wounds, some of them possibly life threatening.

## Lottery winnings disputed

**RI** CRANSTON — The state Lottery Commission has been added to a lawsuit that claims prize money should have been withheld from a man who owes child support.

Cranston's Paula Duffy is owed about \$40,000 in child support.

She originally filed suit against Lincoln Park and amended the complaint to also include the Lottery Commission as a defendant.

Duffy claims Frank Bianco, the father of her son, won at least \$3,000 on Sept. 12 at Lincoln Park and more on other occasions.

The lawsuit seeks to have Lincoln Park or the Lottery Commission pay Duffy the \$40,000 she's owed for child support.

## Abortion doctor arrested

**FL** MIRAMAR — A doctor whose license was revoked for botching abortions, including leaving fetus parts inside a patient, was arrested on charges he continued to perform the procedures.

Roberto A. Osborne, 44, turned himself in to police and was released on bond. He was charged with performing medicine without a license, a third-degree felony. His medical license was revoked in August after state regulators determined he failed to perform necessary preoperative procedures, did not treat a severest perforation and did not return calls to his emergency phone line.

## Wanted: snow

**WY** JACKSON — Pray for snow.

It may sound lighthearted, but Jackson Hole congregations have been doing just that — and the Rev. David Bott of Redeemer Lutheran Church points to some very white results a couple weeks ago.

"But now they're wondering if it's beginner's luck," he said.

Little snow has fallen on the valley over the past two weeks, prompting resorts like Snow King to crank up their snowmaking machinery to keep the slopes well-dressed.

Paul Hayden, minister at Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole, said he has been praying fervently for precipitation.

"Theologically, we're called to be stewards of the earth, and this is a real stewardship issue," he said. "It's not just a fun issue."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Grinchins foiled

**MS** COLUMBUS — It wasn't tough for police to thwart two would-be Grinchins — they just followed the telltale trail of wrapping paper.

Two unidentified boys, ages 14 and 12, were charged with burglary after they were accused of stealing Christmas presents from a family home, police said.

Authorities say Stanley Adams discovered someone had broken into his Columbus home late Friday. Two juveniles who lived nearby were suspected.

Police followed a trail of paper, ribbons and gift tags that led them to one of the boys' houses. One boy told authorities that he stole the presents. The gifts — which included an E-Z Bake oven, a set of Legos and a Pac-Man video game — were returned.

### One inmate's charity

**HI** HONOLULU — The state Supreme Court has suspended state Rep. Alex Sonson from practicing law for three months because of numerous ethics violations from 1999 to 2002, officials announced Monday.

In a statement released late Monday, Sonson said he takes full responsibility for his actions and will cooperate fully with the decision.



### Real horsepower

**Tim Tong rides a horse into downtown Juneau, Alaska, from the Mendenhall Valley. Tong is a horse trainer who moved to Juneau to work and be with his family after leaving the Air Force, in which he served in Iraq.**

The court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel said Sonson misappropriated a client's money, commingled personal funds with other money, mislabeled his trust and business accounts and falsely submitted documents stating he was in compliance with state rules of conduct. His suspension begins Jan. 19.

"I would also like to apologize to my clients and to my constituents for these errors," said Sonson, D-Pearl City-Waipahu, who won re-election to his second term in office last month.

"I want to assure them that it will not happen again."

### One person's trash ...

**OR** EUGENE — Turns out there's quite a collector's market for 100-year-old glass electric insulators.

One such item, purchased for peanuts at a garage sale, netted \$10,313 on eBay recently. It's not diamond-encrusted, it wasn't owned by a celebrity and there's no vision of the Virgin Mary involved here.

Phil Urnine and Jeanie Quimby came up with two of the insulators, one ceramic, one glass, for \$5 for the pair.

Quimby thought she could make a buck — posting the glass model with a starting price of \$5.99.

Just a few hours later, she checked to see how it was doing — and found 10 urgent messages from collectors, telling her that the glass insulator dated to the 1890s, was extraordinarily rare and listed in price guides at up to \$10,000.

"I about freaked out," said Quimby, 55.

"I couldn't talk."

The winning bid of \$10,313 came from a man in Helena, Mont.

"This particular piece, I would guess that there are fewer than 12 of them that have been found to date," said John McDougall of Sedona, Ariz., who has published insulator price guides and reference books.

### Beltin' the kids in

**NH** EXETER — A regional school board that represents six area towns is considering seat belts on school buses. If the policy is adopted, it would represent a first among the state's public schools. The board is reviewing the board after several parents sought seat belts.

"We teach our children from day one to buckle up," Jaye Jennings Garnett said. "And then we put them on a school bus without one?"

Once the cost is known, the board plans to put the issue before voters.

### Questionable finances

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — Florida could award a \$700 million private contract despite a lack of evidence that it will save more money than keeping the work within a state agency, according to a group that evaluated the options. The contract would cover those who decide residents' eligibility for food stamps, welfare assistance and Medicaid.

Taxpayers are expected to save \$69.2 million a year under both the outsourced and in-house models.



### Quiet holiday celebration

Worshippers sing "Silent Night" during a candlelight service at the First Presbyterian Church in Dodge City, Kan.



### An understatement

Ice forms on a street sign on Coldstream in Danville, Ky.



**Not where the water belongs** Marvin Tyner, office manager of a water bottling company in Augusta, Ga., sweeps water off the roof of the business.



**Christmas helper** This 2-year-old, 145-pound St. Bernard named Harrison shows his Christmas spirit as he waits in the truck of his owner, Randy Davis, while running errands recently in Ottumwa, Iowa.



**Moon climber?** A construction worker appears to be climbing to the moon as he makes his way up a form 60 feet above the ground at a construction site in Daytona Beach, Fla.



**Holiday deliveries** Newborns from left, Karen Granados, 4 days old; Kennedy Mae O'Neill, 3 days old; Diego Novoa, 1 day old; Victoria Irizarry, 1 day old; Luke Harrison Insana, 3 days old; Spencer Bennett Kerr, 1 day old; and Trinity Belle Analambidakis, 4 days old, pose for a photo at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Mass.

## Flip-flop on the rails

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Plans to create a rail museum at historic Union Station by early next year have been pared down. Six months ago, Union Station's board voted to pay a Milwaukee collector \$650,000 for 11 antique rail cars and a collection of railroad memorabilia. Now the station seeks to fix five of the rail cars for tours at the museum and sell the others.

## Museum work begins

**VA** FREDERICKSBURG — Work crews began clearing land for construction of the U.S. National Slavery Museum.

Scores of trees were removed from the 38-acre site near Interstate 95. Eight to nine acres need to be cleared as the first step in building the museum.

Museum officials have said the facility will open in February 2007.

The founder of the museum is former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder. The grandson of slaves and the nation's first elected black governor, Wilder has said the idea was born during his visit to Goree Island in West Africa.

## Plane crash kills 2

**WI** SINGLETON GROVE — A single-engine plane whose pilot reported smoke in the cockpit crashed in a hayfield, killing both people on board, officials said.

Witnesses told investigators the plane's engine was not running when it struck some treetops, flipped and crashed on its back in eastern Wisconsin near Lake Michigan, sheriff's Sgt. Doug Tuttle said.

The pilot of the 1964 Beech Bonanza took off from Manitowish, about 20 miles north of the crash site, and was heading to Lockport in northern Illinois, said Tony Molinaro, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

## Big shoes to fill

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — The city's managing director, who oversees 13 agencies and runs the city government's day-to-day affairs, said he will leave his job by early spring. "I'm going to be 60 in April, and it's a tough job for a 60-year-old, and I've got a life to live," Philip Goldsmith said. The managing director's job is one of several top positions Mayor John Street must fill.

## Law change works

**LA** METAIRIE — Officers have issued a third fewer speeding tickets on the bridge across Lake Pontchartrain since October, when the speed limit was raised from 55 mph to 65 mph. Officials with the Causeway Commission, which oversees the bridge, said more motorists are obeying the new limits. About 900 speeders were caught in August; 595 were ticketed in November.

## Accused coach dead

**CO** CASTLE ROCK — A girls' basketball coach charged with having sex with three of his underage players was found dead in his jail cell of an apparent suicide.

Rick Lopez, 37, former coach of the Colorado Hoopsters, was discovered hanging Sunday in a cell

he had to himself at the Douglas County Detention Facility, police said. A note was found nearby, but officials would not discuss its contents.

Lopez was charged in August with 59 counts of sexual assault and child abuse. He had an arraignment hearing scheduled for Feb. 11.

Prosecutors said Lopez admitted having sexual relationships with three former players in the traveling girls basketball club, beginning when they were 13 or 14 years old. Other players have also accused him of making sexual advances toward them.

## Shipping port study

**MI** ESCANABA — Few physical barriers would prevent the creation of a deep-water Lake Michigan shipping port, a recent study found. The study shows infrastructure requirements such as railways, utilities and electricity are all in place to accommodate a deep-water port in Escanaba. Two companies interested in investing in the project have submitted proposals to the city.

## Gay cops settle

**CA** LOS ANGELES — The city has tentatively agreed to pay \$650,000 to settle lawsuits filed by two gay police officers who claim they were discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. If ratified by the City Council, the settlements would boost to nearly \$3 million the city's payouts to eight gay officers.

## School funds needed

**MT** HELENA — Half of the voters questioned in a statewide poll say Montana's public schools lack money to provide a quality education. The poll found most voters want to fill the gap by cutting other government spending and not by raising taxes. The telephone poll commissioned by Lee Newspapers of Montana surveyed 625 registered voters statewide. School funding is likely to be the top issue in the upcoming legislative session.

## Threat lands man in jail

**TX** EL PASO — A man who pleaded guilty to threatening to destroy the El Paso Islamic Center has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison.

In addition, U.S. District Judge Frank Montalto ordered Jared Bjarnason, 30, to complete 150 hours of community service.

"There are no life threats in the post 9/11 world," U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton said. Bjarnason admitted to sending an e-mail message to the center in April threatening to burn down the center's mosque if hostages held in Iraq were not released within three days.

## Interpreting immunity

**VT** BURLINGTON — Advocates for Vermont's growing number of foreign language interpreters say the workers need legal protection so they won't have to testify in court about their jobs.

Sylvia Delcastillo-Alzamora, a Spanish-English translator, says testifying about her work "would be betraying the ethics of the profession."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first scoreboard of the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myaftrt.com/dmmedia.cfm>.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2004

(AFR-FAMILY)		(AFR-MUSIC)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-NEWS)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-PACIFIC)	
9:00	The Wild Thornberrys	Movie "Sue and the Single Mom"	Dr. Phil	Jagorady	Nightline	College Basketball All-College Classic - Tulsa at Oklahoma, From Oklahoma City (Taped)	30 Minute Meals	Jagorady
9:30	The Wild Thornberrys	2003 Gal O'Grady, Grant Show A divorce learns she is pregnant of a baby.	Dr. Phil	Headline News	Headline News		Food #11	Headline News
10:00	ChalkZone (E)		(9-46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNs	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Sensible Chic	ESPNs
10:30	ChalkZone Snip is chased.		(1-35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Fashion File	Pacific Report
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10-48) Movie "Al Force One" (1997) Harrison Ford. The U.S. president battles terrorists aboard his plane.	(1-17) General Hospital	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor	College Basketball All-College Classic - Gonzaga vs. Oklahoma State, From Oklahoma City (Taped)	E! News Live	The Parkers
11:30	Kim Possible		Headline News	Arrested Development	FOX News		The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00	Kim Possible "October 31st"		Today	The 4400 "Trial by Fire"			That '70s Show (Part 2 of 2)	The 4400 "Trial by Fire"
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie "Benney & Joen" (1993, Drama) James Earl Ray, Mary Stuart Masterson.		The 4400 "White Light"	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Girlfriends	The 4400 "White Light"
13:30	Movie "Double Teamed" (2002, Drama) Anne McGowan, Patti Mullen.	(2-43) Movie "The Peacemaker" (1997, Suspense) George Clooney, Michael Douglas. A soldier and a soldier seek nuclear weapons.	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show	Fox and Friends	Auto Racing FIA World Rally Championship, From Cyprus (Taped)	Charm'd "Cat House"	The Tonight Show
14:00	Funniest Home Videos		Sylvester & Tweety	Buzz Lightyear of Star	American Morning		Any Day Now	Any Day Now
15:00	Full House		The Fairly OddParents	Late Show		SportsCenter	ER "Finders Keepers"	Late Show
16:00	Pokémon "Brave the Wave"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	OWN Live Today	NBA Fastbreak	Law & Order "Harm"	Access Hollywood
17:00	Asahi! Real Monsters	Inside the Actors Studio David Byrne.	Headline News	The Late Late Show		SportsCenter	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
17:30	Rocket Power SquarPants	Coming Attractions	ESPNs		FOX News	NFL Live	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
18:30	Nurgals	Entertainment Tonight	APN Evening News	Dennis Miller	Day-Side With Linda Vester	NBA Fastbreak	The Amazing Race	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
19:30	Even Stevens "Get a Job"	Movie "The Mummy Reborn" (2001, Adventure) Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz. A scientist and a soldier seek nuclear weapons.	The Parkers	Arrested Development	FOX News	College Football Insight Bowl - Notre Dame vs. Oregon State, From Phoenix.	Andromeda "Inimicable Perception"	Entertainment Studios.com
20:30	Gilmore Girls "Presenting Linda Gilmore"		The 4400 "Trial by Fire"	The 4400 "White Light"	Studio 8 With Shepard Smith	The Hot List	Discovery Specials: Space Colonies	Headline News
21:00	Degraess: Next		Headline News	Good Morning America		First and Ten	Friends	Good Morning America
21:30	Degraess: The Next Generation		The Tonight Show		Your World With Neil Cavuto	College Gmday	Friends (Part 2 of 2)	The Daily Show
22:00	The Cosby Show "Move It"	Movie "Bite the Bullet" (1975, Genre) Jack Nicholson.	Headline News		Lester Holt Live	College Football ETV1 Net Houston Bowl - Colorado vs. Texas-E Paso, From Houston.	Blind Date	
23:00	How Improvement							

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2004

00:00	Asahi! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie "Bite the Bullet" (1975, Western) Gene Hackman, Candice Bergen.	Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	(10:30) College Football ETV1 Net Houston Bowl - Colorado vs. Texas-E Paso, From Houston. (Live)	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	(11:30) Western	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Amazing Race	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	Spongedoo SquarPants	4 U's	Headline News	Boonah (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Wheel of Fortune	Boonah (E)
1:30	Nurgals	(2-5) Movie "El Dill Dill" (1967, Horror) Bruce Campbell, Sarah Berry, Dan Hicks.	Dr. Phil	APN Evening News	ABC Evening News		Andromeda "Inimicable Perception"	Dr. Phil
2:00	Even Stevens "Get a Job"		Dr. Phil	Oprah Winfrey	The Newshour With Jim Lehrer		Discovery Specials: Space Colonies	Oprah Winfrey
2:30	Kenan & Kel	Movie "The Mummy Reborn" (2001, Adventure) Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz. A scientist and a soldier seek nuclear weapons.	Headline News	Headline News	Hannity & Colmes		Friends	NBC Nightly News
3:00	Gilmore Girls "Presenting Linda Gilmore"		Inside the NFL	NBC Nightly News	Headline News		Seinfeld (Part 2 of 2)	Judge Judy
3:30	Degraess: Next		Access Hollywood	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report		Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
4:00	Degraess: The Next Generation		Low Dobbs Tonight	Access Hollywood	Low Dobbs Tonight		Caribbean Workout	(25) Guiding Light
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	(24) ESPNs	Body Shopping	(13) General Hospital
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)	(2-6) Movie "Semper Fi" (2001, Drama) Scott Bakula, Bianca Kajlich.	Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	NFL Total Access	The View	Legend of Tarzan
6:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Inside the Actors Studio David Byrne.	Play With Me Sesame	Bear in the Big Blue House	NewsNight With Aaron Brown		Emeri Live	Asahi! Real Monsters
7:00	Bob the Builder	Coming Attractions	Boonah (E)	Boonah (E)	BET Nightly News		Sabrina, the Animated Series	Sabrina, the Animated Series
8:00	The Wiggles "Safety"	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	Tavis Smiley		NBA Inside Stuff	Jagorady
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Movie "Midwives" (2001, Drama) Sissy Spacek, Peter Coyote, For Lausie. A midwife is charged with her patient's death.	Dr. Phil	Headline News	Nightline	College Basketball Alabama at Wisconsin. (Taped)	30 Minute Meals	Headline News
9:30	The Wild Thornberrys		(9-46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Low Carb & Lovin' It	Headline News
10:00	ChalkZone		(1-35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNs
10:30	ChalkZone (E)		(1-35) Guiding Light	Two and a Half Men	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	Style Star	Pacific Report
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10-48) Movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (1984, Adventure) Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw.	(1-17) General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes	NFL Live	E! News Live	The King of Queens
12:00	Kim Possible "All the News"		Headline News	Barbara Walters-10 Most Fascinating People of 2004		NBA Fastbreak	Girlfriends "On the Couch?"	Barbara Walters-10 Most Fascinating People of 2004
12:30	Kim Possible (E)		Judge Judy	CSC Crime Scene Investigation "XX"	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Charm'd "A Trio of Wood nymphs flee to San Francisco."	CSC Crime Scene Investigation "XX"
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie "Beautiful Girls" (1996) Timothy Hutton. Immature small-town pals face difficulties with women.	Today	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	Auto Racing FIA World Rally Championship, From Cyprus (Taped)	Aly McBeal "The Pursuit of Unhappiness"	Pacific Report
13:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		Headline News	The Tonight Show	American Morning		Any Day Now "Boys Will Be Boys"	The Tonight Show
14:00	Kim Possible "All the News"		Headline News	Headline News	OWN Live Today	Inside the NFL	ER "Things Change"	Access Hollywood
14:30	Planet's Funniest Animals		Headline News	The Late Late Show		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Shield"	Headline News
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2-53) Movie "Working Girl" (1988) Melanie Lynskey. An ambitious small-town pale face diffuses with women.	Legend of Tarzan	Late Show	FOX News	College Gameday Bowl Special	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
15:30	Full House "Easy Rider"		Asahi! Real Monsters	Sabrina, the Animated Series	60 Minutes	College Football Continental Title Bowl - Boston College vs. North Carolina, From Charlotte, N.C. (Live)	Summerland "Skipping School"	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Nick News Special Edition	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Practice "Character Evidence"	Entertainment Studios.com
17:30	Asahi! Real Monsters	Showbiz Moms & Dads	Jagorady	Headline News	OWN Live Today	Inside the NFL	Friends "The One in Vegas"	Good Morning America
18:30	Rocket Power	Short Movies	Headline News	The Late Late Show		SportsCenter	College Football "The Final" Bowl - Navy vs. New Mexico, From San Francisco. (Live)	Blind Date
19:30	Spongedoo SquarPants	Short Movies	Headline News	Headline News		FOX News		
19:30	Nurgals	Entertainment Tonight	APN Evening News	Dennis Miller		60 Minutes		
19:30	That's So Raven	Movie "Baby Geniuses" (1999, Comedy) Kathleen Turner. A superintelligent infant escapes from sinister scientists.	Two and a Half Men	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		FOX News		
20:30	Ali That		Will & Grace	Barbara Walters-10 Most Fascinating People of 2004		Studio 8 With Shepard Smith		
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(8-53) Movie "Save the Last Dance" (2001) Jada Pinkett Smith. A high schooler is to be in a mostly black high school.	Headline News	Good Morning America		Your World With Neil Cavuto		
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		The Tonight Show			Lester Holt Live		
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News					
22:30	Home Improvement		Headline News					
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Seek and Ye Shall Find"		Headline News					

- full-service dealership
- tax-free car sales
- grab a great deal!

US prices and five-year financing included.

Darmstadt Office: Bank park of Darmstadt-Friedrich Krause, Ludwigshofen Strasse 174, 64295 Darmstadt.

Phone: 0618-691 0628 or 0618-6948-3200 • Fax: 0618-691-0629 • email: [info@autahauss-haese.de](mailto:info@autahauss-haese.de)Webseite: [www.autahauss-haese.de](http://www.autahauss-haese.de) • Email: [kontakt@autahauss-haese.de](mailto:kontakt@autahauss-haese.de) • Fax: 06134 258722 • 2643830 • Fax: 06134 264394 • email: [info@autahauss-haese.de](mailto:info@autahauss-haese.de)

Autahauss Haese

NEW V70

VOLVO

for life

[www.autahauss-haese.de](http://www.autahauss-haese.de)



## FACES

## Tea gives zesty performance in 'Spanglish'

BY WILLIAM BOOTH

The Washington Post

WE'RE cooling our jets at the hotel bar, awaiting Tea Leoni, who is upstairs taking her clothes off.

That's what the publicist says. Tea is changing. We drum our fingers, order a glass of sauvignon blanc, flip through notes.

Tea Leoni was born Elizabeth Tea Pantaloni in 1966. Raised New York City. Daughter of a mergers and acquisitions lawyer. Park Avenue. Sarah Lawrence College. Majored in anthropology.

Dropped out; bummed around the Virgin Islands. First big break: winning an audition for a remake of the "Charlie's Angels" television series, which never got made.

We're deep into reading about her 7-ion (Golf for Women magazine) when Tea (pronounced TAY-uh) Leoni appears, wrapped in a short overcoat with an oversized silk flower on the lapel, lugging a handbag, blowing her blond hair off her face.

Even a little frazzled after a day being interviewed by the Hollywood Foreign Press corps, the woman glows like warm butter, as if lit by some incredibly high-end designer light bulb.

Hard day at the office? "Don't start with me, buster," Leoni says.

She is kind of snappy, in that 1940s Hollywood way, a blond siren who'll smoke the occasional cigar, knock back a tequila. She sweats like a sailor. She is known to belch. She flaps in the chair, scans the table, waves to the hovering waiter. "We're having wine! Great idea. I'll have whatever he's having."

We begin our opening inanities. "Shhhh, shhhh, shhhh," Leoni wags a finger. "Just a minute." Grab. Flip. POUND. She cradles the mini-cell. "Gotta check in with the family first." That would be husband David Duchovny, formerly of "The X-Files," and daughter West, son Miller. A moment of personal phone talk. More button punching. Voice mail. Then: "OK, shoot."

Leoni is starring in writer-director James L. Brooks's new domestic comedy-drama, "Spanglish." What's the movie about? Whew! Marriage.

Kids. Longing. The travails of a stunning and headstrong young Mexican maid and mother (Spanish actress Paz Vega as Flor) and her bright-as-a-new-penny daughter, who enter the lives of a wealthy Westside Los Angeles family, the dysfunctional Claskys, led by Adam Sandler (playing it straight) as the sweet, decent lub-dub who is a renowned chef, and his on-screen wife, who is a train wreck.

Deborah Clasky, as channeled by Leoni, is self-obsessed and oblivious; she buys her plump, size 10 daughter size 8 clothes so she'll lose weight. Deborah is vanity, she is vulnerability. The character carries SPF 70 sunblock. She does yoga. But enlightenment eludes her.

When Deb has sex with Sandler's character, John, she pretty much takes care of Deb, if you know what we mean. Deb is very good at shopping; she nests, furiously; she gushes, aggressively. It is all about Deborah. She is a screaming me-me.

Q: Your character is appalling.

A: Completely.

Q: But she's real. I mean, this town is filled with Deborahs.

A: They're everywhere.

Q: She's having a meltdown.

A: I think she's bipolar.

Q: But she's hilarious.



Actress Tea Leoni arrives at the premiere of "Spanglish" on Dec. 9. Leoni's character is self-serving and almost ugly, but Leoni says she relishes such juicy roles.

A: Go for it.

Q: I mean, what are we to make of Deborah?

Leoni takes a sip of white wine. "There's something about being conscious," she says. "Deborah is not conscious. She is so blinded by her self-worry, her grandiose narcissism. I don't think Deborah thinks, I'm not loving, I'm not a good mother. But she made what should be the joy in life the pain in life, you know?"

When she was making "Jurassic Park III," back in 2001,

you have to start accepting yourself as you are, she explains, adding that despite her low self-esteem and weight problems, Ozzy always "loved me the way I was."

## Puck caters to stars

Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck will cook up a storm at the Oscars next year, signing on to cater the star-studded official Academy Awards banquet for the 11th time, reports Agency France-Press.

Oscar organizers said the Austrian-born

Leoni took her daughter to the set. "We spent months running around the jungle fleeing imaginary dinosaurs," she says. But Leoni didn't want her daughter, now 5, to see her playing Mrs. Clasky. Deborah is very funny, but Deborah does not know she is funny. Because she is also scary, because she is unloving.

"But I relate to her as a mother. The earnestness. As a mother, I get it: needing so badly to do it right. I don't see the world as a terrifying place. But Deborah does. And if her daughter has the extra pounds, she won't be able to fight. She'll be eaten alive."

To the world, Leoni is a sexy, blond, blue-eyed uber-WASP, with mile-long legs, an actress known sometimes as much for her beauty as her work. She did the TV series "The Naked Truth," and has appeared in "Bad Boys" with Will Smith and "The Family Man" with Nicolas Cage and "Deep Impact," the blockbuster about a meteor. Plus the dinosaur sequel.

We actually think she was best in David O. Russell's quirky Ben Stiller movie, "Flirting With Disaster," where Leoni got to play comedy.

"I've been here 13 years. Wait. Longer. 1988. Jesus, it's been 17 years," she says. "For a while there, people were saying, 'Why don't you become a bigger star?' She makes a funny face. "Hmm. Why don't I become a bigger star?"

The Hollywood dream, we offer, playing the unctuous undertaker.

"Yeah, pffft! Like really dumb," Leoni says. "I don't regret a move I've made in this town. I've worked with some phenomenal talent. I've done some projects that were very sought after, with reason. One way or the other — they were either going to be big or they were just damn good."

A crushing waiter. Leoni: "Excuse me, could we have a couple more glasses of wine?" We gloop.

"But it didn't happen for me that way," she says, "and it couldn't have. I can't rest my laurels on a face or a body, or be the girl who shows up at fashion shows and premieres. I've never been that for anyone. It's not what I do."

She says, "I mean, give me a banana peel" to slip on. Which is exactly what Brooks has given her.

Sandler plays a romantic lead. Vega plays his love interest and is, as Sandler's character confesses, "drop-dead crazy gorgeous." And Leoni?

"Somebody said to me: 'What a brave performance to be seen like that.' Meaning a little puffy? A little 'Tea' Leoni snarls a laugh. "You're killing me. Anyway."

"It's [expletive] howling your eyes out and a director who has the bravery to say, 'don't you dare touch her up. I mean, to be shown looking so horrible on camera? I couldn't have done it without that.'"

In a climactic scene, Leoni's nose starts running while she's crying, which her co-star, the marvelous Cloris Leachman (playing Deborah's boozing-but-wise mother), suggests she does not wipe away, saying something like, "It makes you real, honey." Before Deborah confronts Sandler about his possible infidelity.

So, you're puffly-eyed, runny nose. Brooks lights like you were under fluorescent lights. I mean, your pores, visible. Then he switches to Paz, who is young, luminous, radiant, the girl everybody wants.

So it's a torch being passed? Leoni says, OK, I see where this is going. She is 38, the mother of two. Striking, but no longer 21. "God bless the gals who become icons in this town. I can't imagine a more scary pedestal to fall from. I suppose in some very lonely moments in my life, I'd wish for that."

To fall? "To rise," she says. "I'm not some so-and-so taking off their makeup to do their non-makeup movie. I'm a character actor."

So this idea of being totally exposed, "this is what I want to do."

## Osbourne bares all

We've been there for many of Sharon Osbourne's most intimate moments, from her battle with colon cancer to her explosive-filled heart-to-hearts with her children to her creepy baby-talk with husband Ozzy. But it turns out the publicly-loving, soul-baring MTV music mom still has some secrets left to spill, reports MSN.com.

First up: her continuing struggle with bulimia. "I still have it," she admits. "Ozzy knows, yes. And the kids. My God, how

could they not! It's the thing that causes most arguments. We'll be at the dinner table, and I'll go off and they'll say: 'Oh, here we go again.' They hate it."

Moving on to the next revelation — her extensive nipping and tucking. "Face lift, neck, breasts. Lips, leg lifts, bum implant, tummy tuck. I've had it all and it is fab-u-lous," enthuses Osbourne, who has said the various surgeries set her back about \$250,000.

"I've had so much plastic surgery, but there is only so much you can do — then

you have to start accepting yourself as you are, she explains, adding that despite her low self-esteem and weight problems, Ozzy always "loved me the way I was."

## Puck caters to stars

Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck will cook up a storm at the Oscars next year, signing on to cater the star-studded official Academy Awards banquet for the 11th time, reports Agency France-Press.

Oscar organizers said the Austrian-born

super-chef, long a favorite of the stars who regularly cluster in his Hollywood restaurants, had again been selected for the glittering Governor's Ball.

The Ball is held immediately after the annual Academy Awards to honor all the evening's winners and nominees.

"This is Hollywood's biggest night, so it's great to have the opportunity each year to create a menu that is new and exciting," said Puck.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Horoscope

The Leo moon invites us to a cosmic happy hour, where the free and half-priced drinks have us just only enough to spin a tall tale for the sake of being social. The tendency toward exaggeration can be awfully fun, and laughter will emanate from normally sober individuals. Be effusive. Everyone needs love and acknowledgment.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 29).** Exciting news regarding your career starts the year with a bang. By April, you may expect vast improvements on your living situation — expansions, remodeling and relocating are all possibilities. Many of you will become engaged, wed or renew your vows. Love signs are Sagittarius and Taurus. When it's vacation time, don't think small.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** There's a hush over your land, which is terrific since you crave a little downtime after the holidays. On the other hand, part of you feels guilty, like you're supposed to be doing something at all times. Cool your jets.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You'll find harmony in your relationships with women and will benefit from their intuition and caring approach.

Any sort of creative endeavor gets a little boost right now, even if you can't immediately see the results.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're in a wonderful mood — perhaps the result of some secret communication? Translate that energy into a fun evening with the one you love, and you can't go wrong. If single, wear white or silver to attract someone's eye.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your normally uncanny intuition is bound to be a little fuzzy now. Don't act on your first impression — think it over. Tonight is much better for making decisions. It's better for upping your glamour quotient, too.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Even though it's winter, the sun is already

beginning to overtake the darkness. Feel your power slowly growing. Hold this belief close to your heart. Let it take hold and flourish. There's no need to act yet — just knowing is enough.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Any sort of home-based project, particularly in the kitchen or bath, can be easily tackled. You make quick work of plumbing fixes and organizing the pantry, fridge or vanity. Enlist your children by making it fun.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You are incredibly popular, able to emotionally connect to people with ease. If you have a public appearance to make, this is a wonderful opportunity. Brush up on your jokes — make 'em laugh, and then, reel 'em in.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** A light bulb turns on in your head. This moment of perfect clarity is likely to resolve a problem you've been brooding over for days and will happen when you're showering, driving, working out or dozing off.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You can nail what's wrong and rid yourself of it once and for all that is, if you're willing to dig and access the emotional cause of your trouble. The excavation is not as painful as you think it will be.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Fertility issues come to the fore, be they physical or mental. If a creative project seems stalled, take a brisk walk outdoors to get those juices flowing again. Any sort of climbing or hiking is always beneficial to goats.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Expect yesterday's emotional outburst to have repercussions. Whether it was your bad or someone else's, try to keep your cool and ride it out. The shock waves from this one could last through the weekend.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** As Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler once said, "Sometimes you're the windshield, sometimes you're the bug." Now, you feel like the bug, but try to keep your sense of humor. This funk will be gone by tomorrow.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes

## Jump Start

## Zits

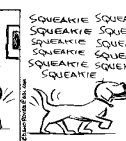
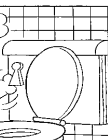
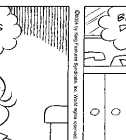
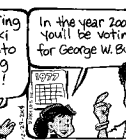
## Cathy

## Hi and Lois

## Beetle Bailey

## Red Rover

## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



12/29/04

12/29/04

Footrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



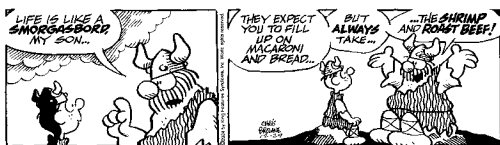
Blondie



Dilbert



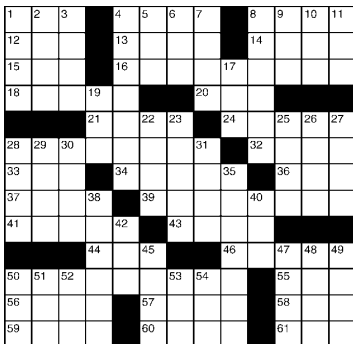
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Early bird
- 4 Picnic hamper
- 8 Advertising agency
- 12 Privy
- 13 Beige
- 14 Patronize the library
- 15 — Jose
- 16 Bubbly
- 18 Pond cover
- 20 Ms. Sills, to pals
- 21 Parent sharers
- 24 Rodeo cry
- 28 Lumbago
- 32 VCR descendant
- 33 Cretan mountain
- 34 London newspaper
- 36 Shriner's chapeau
- 37 Ethereal
- 39 "Common Sense" man
- 41 Knapsack part
- 43 Dark, filmwise
- 44 Symbol of intrigue
- 46 Winger or Messing
- 50 "Miracle on 34th Street" actor
- 55 Massage
- 56 Lotion additive
- 57 "Cheers" order
- 58 Suffering
- 59 Dandelion, e.g.
- 60 Aardvark's lunch
- 61 "Holy cow!"

## Down

- 1 "Born Free" lioness
- 2 Target
- 3 Amateur-night singer
- 4 Prop
- 5 Interplay intersection
- 6 Glass of NPR
- 7 Senseless
- 8 Necktie
- 9 Journey segment
- 10 Author Fleming
- 11 Sonnet, sometimes
- 17 Church seat
- 19 Send out invitations
- 22 Fisherman's need
- 23 Who says?
- 25 Music lover's hookup
- 26 It takes the cake
- 27 Leak slowly
- 28 Prejudice
- 29 Mine entrance
- 30 "It Must Be Him" singer
- 31 "Finding —"
- 35 Cast-iron skillet
- 38 Reacted with ennui
- 40 Exist
- 42 Energy
- 45 Ali —
- 47 Tars' bars
- 48 Hold the scepter
- 49 Competent
- 50 Mandible
- 51 Bulling bravo
- 52 Weeding implement
- 53 Longing
- 54 Profit

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-29

## CRYPTOQUIP

Z R Z H I Z G O G L Q O I D E L M L D  
 T V L U O H Q K M O I J , M I U O  
 Z G T E O G G R T D D K D Z R W O J

Q K G V Z H Z W G ?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I REALIZED THAT SOMEONE TEACHING A LAMAZE CLASS MIGHT BE CALLED A LABOR LEADER.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals C

# Sister-in-law's 'joke' goes too far

**Dear Abby:** My husband comes from a family of practical jokers. When I first married "Vince," I tolerated it.

However, after my sister-in-law, "Vicki," sent a stripper to my office as a birthday surprise, I asked her politely and firmly to stop. All my request did was provoke her to continue hounding me and to escalate the jokes.

Her last "joke" was the last straw. Vince and I had planned a dream vacation to Europe. Vicki called our travel agent and attempted to cancel it over the phone. She had our confirmation number and my credit card information.

It's lucky that I'm close friends with the travel agent, who knew it wasn't me.

Besides nearly costing us thousands of dollars in unrefundable travel costs, we realized that Vicki had snooked through our personal belongings. How else could she have obtained my cred-

it card numbers and the confirmation number for the trip?

Vicki is no longer welcome in our home. She has never apologized and seems to enjoy showing up at our house, forcing us to deny her entry. How can we get her to stop harassing us, and how can we get the family to recognize the seriousness of this?

**Dear Abby**



— **Ticked Off in Houston**

**Dear Ticked Off:** Your sister-in-law appears to have gone off the deep end. There is a difference between a practical joke and malicious mischief, a fact that seems lost on the woman. Until she grows up and sobers up, you are within your rights to distance yourself from her.

**Dear Abby:** I am a woman in my 30s with an outgoing personality. A few weeks ago I struck up a conversation with an elderly man in a store. We shared a common

interest in computers, so I gave him my e-mail address.

In his first two e-mails, he suggested we have lunch and asked if I was married. In his third e-mail, he volunteered that he only "co-existed" with his wife and said they were probably headed for divorce.

At that point, I e-mailed him that I didn't think our correspondence was a good idea because it could cause problems for him, even if he was looking only for friendship.

He replied with an angry e-mail saying I had offended him by suggesting that he would cheat on his wife.

I'm not sure if I overstepped my bounds and owe him an apology.

**Wants to do the Right Thing in Carolina**  
**Dear Wants:** The right thing to do is stop the e-mails. Delete him from your computer and your life. You do not owe him an apology or any further contact.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**ZAWLT**

□ □ □ □ □ □

©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

**VENET**

□ □ □ □ □ □

**DORPAN**

□ □ □ □ □ □

**PORTSY**

□ □ □ □ □ □

**A:** □ □ □ □ □ □

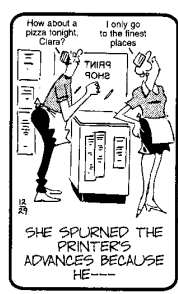
**HER** "□ □ □ □ □ □"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CANAL FOLIO NOTIFY PERMIT

Answer: The actress got the part because she could — FEINT A FAINT

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprising answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprising answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Find better home for father-in-law

**Dear Annie:** My wife's 85-year-old father lives with us, and he is slowly breaking up our marriage. He is gross and nasty, thinks he owns the place and treats us like little kids. We have no privacy.

Dad moved in after his wife died, and he's been here a few years.

He is quite capable of taking care of himself, but is too lazy and was spoiled rotten by my mother-in-law.

Talking to him does no good. He's just ornery and mean. My wife hates the situation but says she is responsible for him until he dies, even though she is well aware that our marriage would be her first priority.

Unless something can be done about Dad, we're headed for divorce court.

— **Giving Up in Michigan**

**Dear Michigan:** Being responsible for Dad doesn't mean he has to live with you. It only means that you both should see that Dad gets the best care possible. Start

**Annie's Mailbox**



looking into retirement homes and assisted-living centers. Dad sounds like a good candidate for such places, and he could make lots of new friends as well. Point out to your wife and your father-in-law that he obviously is unhappy with the current situation and it is wrecking your marriage. He needs to find more appropriate accommodations. Please don't wait.

**Dear Annie:** This letter is in response to "Disappointed in Seattle," who went on a job interview and sent a nice thank-you note, but has heard nothing since. I am a career counselor and can tell you this man has plenty of company. Here are my tips: Taking the online job application and giving it a makeover probably cost "Disappointed" the job. It says there's something wrong with the company. Job searches can take anywhere from six months to a year or

more. He may need to adjust his expectations of the job market.

Interviews are a two-way street. Never lose sight of the million-dollar question: "Is this job really for me?"

Career changers like "Disappointed" often need to rethink their approach, and a good career counselor may be of help. The National Career Development Association ([www.ncda.org](http://www.ncda.org)) has a public referral directory.

Finally, every rejection is one more step toward finding the right job. With the right approach, right attitude and LOTS of patience, I am sure "Disappointed's" fortunes will turn.

— **Theresa O'Neill, MA, NCC Career Counselor, Newark, N.J.**

**Dear Theresa O'Neill:** Your optimism will boost the spirits of the unemployed.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

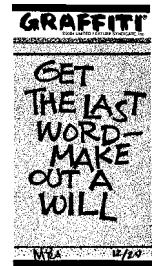
Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



12-29 ©2004 by Keene, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. [www.familycircus.com](http://www.familycircus.com)

"I'm talkin' to you on the phone, Grandma."



**Demis the Menace**



"WE WERE GONNA PLAY AN NEW GAME, BUT DAD FELL ASLEEP READING THE RULES."

**The Far Side**



"Whoopsies! ... If this tomb does have a curse on it, Webster, I daresay we'll be the first to find out."

**Non Sequitur**









# STRIPE CLASSIFIED

Jobs Offered

\$30

## Sony Military Sales

Is looking for motivated, independent and dependable account representatives to work in the following states: **Lakeland, Aviano, Vicenza, Bitburg, Spangdahm & Mannheim.**

Weekend work is expected and a valid ID card is required.

Interested parties should email a resume to: **sonyjob@eps-marketing.com**

## It's All About You!

EDS is one of the worldwide leading information and technology service providers with more than 130,000 employees in 60 countries. Our services range from management consulting and IT services to complete management of business operations.

### EDS IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

#### DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

For the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Center

Knowledge and understanding of the Windows 2000 operating system and Oracle RDBMS experience is required. The DBA will provide on-site database and telephone end-user application, communication, and system/hardware support. Superior verbal and written communication skills are required. Applicants must have, or be close to attaining, Oracle database certification. The ability to use MS Office Professional tools is also required. Both positions are located at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, GE. Logistics Support is provided to those who qualify.

#### SOFTWARE SPECIALIST/DATA ANALYST

For the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Support Center - Europe

To be an analyst, technician, and trainer for the DMDC applications throughout Europe and Southwest Asia. This position will support various DOD data systems such as DEERS, RAPIDS, GDO, ODS, TEX, and DBIDS/ACCS. Knowledge and understanding of the Windows 2000 operating system and Oracle RDBMS is required. Analysts will provide on-site and telephone end-user application, communication, and hardware support in addition to training. Superior verbal and written communication skills are required. The ability to use MS Office Professional tools is also required. Position is located at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, GE. Logistics Support is provided to those who qualify. Your capabilities are described above please send your resume via fax or email.

John B. Carrin  
EDS/DMDC Support Center - Europe  
DSN 436-7672 • Fax 43-6-0963 71-967672  
John.Carrin@eds.com



EDS is a registered mark and the EDS logo is a trademark of Electronic Data Systems Corporation. EDS is an equal opportunity employer and values the diversity of its people. Copyright 2004 Electronic Data Systems Corporation. All rights reserved.

## STANDARD ISSUE MEETS A NEW STANDARD

estripes.osd.mil

Standard Issue  
Meets A  
New Standard

estripes.osd.mil

STARS & STRIPES  
Your HomeTown Newspaper

# Reunited with West should be beneficial to Bryant

By SAM SMITH  
Chicago Tribune

LOS ANGELES — For Kobe Bryant, the road back to the public's heart began Saturday with the loss to former teammate Shaquille O'Neal and the Heat.

Bryant was good, though he took a few too many one-on-one opportunities. He was humble afterward, respectful of O'Neal and the Heat and hopeful his team soon could play with them.

He focused on seeking a bright future. And Phil Jackson, at all people, believes that's possible.

"Kobe is his own counsel lots of times," Jackson said before the Christmas Day game. "He needs to seek people outside to soften his approach. But at one time he was one of the fair-haired boys of the NBA, and people do want him to succeed. He can win that back. As Jackson suggested, one of those feelings. He's got to solicit the friendship of the fan again to bring back those wishes he's had over the years. He can get that, but it's going to be a frustrating [process] for him."

And he needs Jerry West. Jackson didn't say that, but Bryant does. And he could get West.

As Jackson suggested, one of Bryant's major problems is his stubbornness. It's also one of the traits that makes him a great player. He refuses to believe that he cannot succeed. He also refuses to listen to others, which he believed Jackson and led to their estrangement.

But one person in basketball Bryant always has admired and respected is West, now the Grizzlies general manager. West is probably the league's best executive. It was West who put together the deals to trade for Bryant and sign O'Neal. It was West whom Bryant went to when he and O'Neal developed issues. Once West left, there was no one for Bryant to trust in the organization. West should have been a Laker for life, but he and Jackson clashed, especially with Jackson earning millions of dollars a year more than West.

West went to Memphis for the big payday he never got. Now it's time to come home.

Given the recent changes in Memphis, West clearly has lost influence amid talk around the NBA that he could leave. And one figures there are more changes to come for the Grizzlies, 12th in the Western Conference.

But even an ownership change? As one league executive put it: "It's hard to maintain enthusiasm for a losing team when you're an absentee owner."

Michael Heasley lives outside Chicago. This is his fifth year with the Grizzlies, and it could be a good time to get out. Tax rules



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (8) gestures as Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal (32) looks on Saturday. It might be possible for Bryant to win back O'Neal under the guidance of former GM Jerry West.

limit depreciation after that. And now he has a new arena.

Perhaps it's a coincidence, but Hornets co-owner Ray Woolridge sold his share to George Shinn. Woolridge is from Memphis and tried to hire current Grizzlies coach Mike Fratello when Shinn hired Tim Floyd. And no disrespect to Mitch Kupchak, but West's is a magic name in basketball.

No one wants to play with Kobe? They'd play for Jerry West. Who has been better cobbling together winners after losing stars like Magic Johnson, James Worthy and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar? Who'd be better counsel for Bryant? The Lakers need West. And West needs to get away from the Grizzlies.

**Van Gundy won't change:** The Rockets (12-14) continue to be one of the league's major disappointments. Jeff Van Gundy's team doesn't seem to be any closer to harmony after being beaten by the expansion Bobcats twice in a five-day span. "You know what? I've changed enough," Van Gundy said.

"I am who I am. We're not going to sit there and get in a group hug today. We're not going to sing Christmas carols."

Said McGrady: "Right now, I don't think anybody respects us." When asked about Van Gundy's charge that the team lacks intensity, Maurice Taylor woke up long enough to say: "That's his opinion."

**A kernel of truth:** In his spare time, Knicks President Isiah Thomas is hoping to do for popcorn what Starbucks did for coffee. This goes back to the old Stadium days when Thomas and his buddies ate from the leftover popcorn bags. Thomas has bought into two "designer" popcorn stores in Manhattan now called "Dale & Thomas Popcorn." They're thinking about a popcorn bar called "The Zeke," Thomas' nickname. Madison Square Garden also sells flavored popcorn. Thomas' favorite is chocolate chunk caramel. Thomas says it's

one way to relieve the pressure of running a team that is sliding with Jamal Crawford now out for a month with turf toe. Thomas couldn't have enjoyed reading what his leader, guard Stephen Marbury, said about the team being near the bottom in almost every defensive category. "We play much better when we're scoring the ball," Marbury said. "When we're not scoring, defensively we're bad." Speculation is growing again that Thomas will move to coach the team if the losing continues.

**Paxson reunion possible:** Will it become a management family affair in Chicago? There's talk in Cleveland that prospective new owner Dan Gilbert, a Detroit native, may want to model the team after the Pistons with someone like Bill Laimbeer in charge. General manager Jim Paxson has three years left on his contract but could be out if the Cavs (15-11) decline after the risky additions of Jeff McInnis and Drew Gooden. The Paxson brothers are close and John could add his brother if Jim is forced out.

**Prescription for Owens:** Grant Hill had some words of caution for Eagles receiver Terrell Owens: Watch your step. Owens is having ankle surgery in Baltimore with Dr. Mark Myerson, the same doctor who operated on Hill's ankle in 2001 and 2001. "Myerson is putting it out there that he was the one who got Grant Hill back, and we all know that wasn't the case," Hill said. "I wasted my time with him."

Hill ultimately had a more involved procedure performed in 2003 by Dr. James Nunley at the Duke Medical Center in North Carolina. Nunley broke Hill's heel and realigned it with his lower leg. Hill, who has had screws and plates inserted in his ankle three different times, scoffed at Owens being able to return this season. The Magic will visit Chicago Saturday with Hill, the comeback story of the year. He is averaging 19.4 points and has missed just one game.



## It's Your Money

Learn how to manage it better.

Get stock listings, exchange rates, financial tips and business information everyday.

STARS & STRIPES  
Your HomeTown Newspaper

## SCOREBOARD

## AFN &amp; Radio

## Wednesday

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Oklahoma vs. Tulsa (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.**—College basketball: Oklahoma St. vs. Gonzaga (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.**—College basketball: Insight Bowl, Oregon St. vs. Notre Dame (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m.**—College football: Houston Bowl, Colorado vs. Texas-Et Paso.

## Thursday

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**—NBA: Houston at Cleveland.  
**AFN-Athletic, 2 a.m.**—College football: Auburn Bowl, Ohio St. vs. Oklahoma St. (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Alabama vs. North Carolina.  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.**—College basketball: College Cardinals Bowl, Oklahoma vs. Wake Forest.  
**AFN-Sports and Radio, 7 p.m.**—College football: Continental Tire Bowl, Boston College vs. Wake Forest.  
**AFN-Sports and Radio, 10:30 p.m.**—College football: Emerald Bowl, Bay vs. New Mexico.

All Times Central European Time. Idt indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.mylife.net](http://www.mylife.net) for more information.

## College football

## Bowl glance

**Tuesday, Dec. 14**  
**New Orleans Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Southern Mississippi vs. Texas Tech  
 Payoff: \$1.1 million  
**Champs Sports Bowl**  
 At Orlando, Fla.  
 Payoff: \$200,000  
 Georgia Tech vs. Syracuse 14  
**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
**CMAC Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Bowling Green vs. Memphis 35  
**Thursday, Dec. 23**  
**Fort Worth Texas Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Cincinnati 32 vs. Marshall 14  
**Las Vegas Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Wyoming 24 vs. 21  
**Friday, Dec. 24**  
**Hawaii Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Hawaii 30 vs. 10  
**Saturday, Dec. 27**  
**MPC Computers Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Fresno State vs. Virginia 34, OT  
**Motor City Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Connecticut 39 vs. Toledo 10  
**Tuesday, Dec. 28**  
**Independence Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$1.2 million  
 Iowa State (6-5) vs. Miami (Ohio) (8-4)  
**Insight Bowl**  
 At Phoenix  
 Oregon State (6-5) vs. Notre Dame (6-5)  
**Wednesday, Dec. 29**  
**Houston Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$1.1 million  
 Texas-Et Paso (6-5) vs. Colorado (7-5)  
**Klamo Bowl**  
 At San Antonio  
 Payoff: \$1.5 million  
 Ohio State (7-4) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)  
**Thursday, Dec. 30**  
**Continental Tire Bowl**  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Boston College (8-3) vs. North Carolina (6-5)  
**Emerald Bowl**  
 At San Diego  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)  
**Holiday Bowl**  
 At San Diego  
 Payoff: \$2 million  
 California (10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)  
**Slizer Valley Classic**  
 At San Jose, Calif.  
 Payoff: \$1.1 million  
 Troy (7-4) vs. Northern Illinois (6-3)  
**Friday, Dec. 31**  
**Musky Bowl**  
 At Madison, Wis.  
 Payoff: \$750,000  
 Alabama (6-5) vs. Mississippi (6-5)  
**Sun Bowl**  
 At El Paso, Texas  
 Payoff: \$1.5 million  
 Purdue (4-7) vs. Arizona State (8-3)  
**Liberty Bowl**  
 At Memphis, Tenn.  
 Payoff: \$1.1 million  
 Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (10-1)  
**Peach Bowl**  
 At Atlanta  
 Payoff: \$2.2 million  
 Miami (6-5) vs. Florida (4-3)  
**Saturday, Jan. 1**  
**Centen Bowl**  
 At Dallas  
 Payoff: \$1 million  
 Tennessee (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4)  
**Orange Bowl**  
 At Tampa, Fla.  
 Payoff: \$2.5 million  
 Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)

## AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with Kansas at No. 1, voted in parentheses. Records through Dec. 26, total points based on 25 first-place votes through one vote for a 25th-place vote and last week's scores.

Rank	Team	Points	Record	Wins	Losses
1	LSU (45)	110	1-1	1	1
2	Stanford	91	1-1	1	1
3	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
4	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
5	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
6	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
7	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
8	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
9	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
10	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
11	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
12	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
13	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
14	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
15	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
16	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
17	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
18	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
19	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
20	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
21	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
22	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
23	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
24	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
25	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1

## Monday's women's scores

Rank	Team	Points	Record	Wins	Losses
1	LSU (45)	110	1-1	1	1
2	Stanford	91	1-1	1	1
3	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
4	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
5	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
6	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
7	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
8	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
9	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
10	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
11	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
12	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
13	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
14	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
15	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
16	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
17	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
18	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
19	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
20	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
21	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
22	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
23	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
24	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1
25	Stanford	81	1-1	1	1

## Free agent signings

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The 104 free agents who have signed, with names, positions, former club if different, and contract. The contract information was obtained by the Associated Press from player and management sources.

**ANAHIM (4)**—Signed Steve Freely, of Los Angeles, to a \$1.4 million, one-year contract; signed Esteban Vaz, from Detroit, to a \$2.25 million, two-year contract; signed Paul Byrd, from Seattle, to a \$4.5 million, one-year contract; signed Orlando Cabrera, to Boston, to a \$3.7 million, four-year contract.

**BALTIMORE (3)**—Signed Bill Surhoff, of St. Louis, to a \$1.1 million, one-year contract; signed Chris Gomez, to Toronto, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Kevin Kline, from St. Louis, to a \$5.5 million, two-year contract.

**BOSTON (7)**—Signed Doug Mientkiewicz, to a \$3 million, two-year contract; signed Mike Lowell, from Arizona, to a \$500,000, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed John Halama, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Edgar Renteria, to St. Louis, to a \$400,000, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**CHICAGO (3)**—Signed Dustin Hermanson, from St. Louis, to a \$5.5 million, one-year contract; signed Justin Verlander, from Detroit, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Orlando Cabrera, to Boston, to a \$3.7 million, four-year contract.

**CLEVELAND (2)**—Signed Bob Wickman, from St. Louis, to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**KANSAS CITY (2)**—Signed Kevin Applegate, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**MINNESOTA (4)**—Signed Juan Castro, to

Cincinnati, to a \$2.05 million, two-year contract; signed Mike Redmond, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, two-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**NEW YORK (3)**—Signed John Flaherty, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SEATTLE (4)**—Signed Dan Wilson, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**TORONTO (2)**—Signed Doug Bosc, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WASHINGTON (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WEST VIRGINIA (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**WISCONSIN (2)**—Signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.

**SAN DIEGO (3)**—Signed Rudy Senechal, from St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Mike Green, from Tampa Bay, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract.





# Struggling Nuggets fire coach Bzdelik

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Jeff Bzdelik was fired Tuesday as coach of the Denver Nuggets, who are on a six-game losing streak and struggling despite the addition of Kenyon Martin this season.

Assistant Michael Cooper was appointed interim coach.

Denver was expected to move near the top of the Western Conference after signing Martin, an All-Star power forward. So far, the Nuggets have been hurt by injuries and inconsistency.

The Nuggets started the season under the top of the Western Conference after signing Martin, an All-Star power forward. So far, the Nuggets have been hurt by injuries and inconsistency.

Shooting guard Voshon Lenard, Denver's only legitimate outside shooting threat, was lost for the season on the torn Achilles' tendon in the opener.

Denver opened the season 2-5,

won 10 of its next 12 games and has lost eight of its past nine, dropping to 13-15 after a 104-101 loss to Golden State on Monday night.

Bzdelik was a longtime assistant and scout under Pat Riley in Miami and New York before getting his first head coaching job with the Nuggets in 2002. Though Denver struggled to a league-worst 17-65 record in his first season, Bzdelik was credited with turning the Nuggets into a hardworking, defensive-minded team.

A roster overhaul and the addition of Anthony made all the difference last season. The Nuggets improved by 26 games to 43 wins — the sixth-best turnaround in NBA history — to reach the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

Through all the success, Bzdelik may not be able to get security from the front office. General manager Kiki Vandeweghe refused to give Bzdelik a contract



Jeff Bzdelik

extension last season and it seemed the only reason he was back this year was because of a contract clause that called for his option to be picked up if the Nuggets reached the playoffs.

Bzdelik was 73-119 in just over two seasons with Denver. Cooper, a member of the Los Angeles Lakers' "Showtime" teams of the 1980s, coached the Los Angeles Sparks to two WNBA championships and a finals appearance in four years before joining the Nuggets as an assistant this season.

# Rockets acquire Wesley, trade Jackson, Nachbar

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Hornets traded long shooting guard David Wesley to the Houston Rockets for 13-year veteran Jim Jackson and Boston Nachbar, team officials said Monday.

"Jim and Bostjan are going to fit well into our system and should be able to help us with their offensive skills," Hornets General Manager Dan Aday said in a statement. "We're optimistic that the addition of these two players and the return of some of our injured players will give us a great boost on the court."

New Orleans is 2-24.

Jackson, who plays shooting guard and small forward, holds career averages of 15.2 points, 4.9 rebounds and 3.4 assists. The 6-foot-6 journeyman has spent time with Dallas, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Golden State, Portland, Atlanta, Cleveland, Miami and Sacramento in addition to Houston, where he signed as a free agent before last season.

Nachbar was selected by the Rockets with the 15th overall pick in the 2002 NBA Draft. The 6-9 Slovenian forward averaged 2.8 points and 1.4 rebounds in his first two seasons with Houston and had averaged 3.1 points and 1.9 rebounds in 16 games with the Rockets this season.

The Hornets were in Indiana for a Monday night game with the Pacers. Jackson and Nachbar were expected to go directly to New Orleans and join the Hornets for their next home game Wednesday night against Phoenix, team spokesman Harold Kaufman said.

Houston's next game is Tuesday night in Milwaukee.

Wesley played for the Hornets since the opening of the 1997-98 season, compiling averages of 14.7 points and 4.6 assists. Wesley grew up in Texas and played college at Baylor.

He is the franchise's career leader in games started and ranks in the top three in 12 other categories.

He had averaged 13 points and 4.6 assists in 26 games with the Hornets this season.

To make room on the roster for Jackson and Nachbar, the Hornets waived injured guard Alex Garcia and forward Lundy Alex Garcia.

## Raptors place Mourning on injured list; activate Araújo

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors placed newly acquired center Alonzo Mourning on the injured list Monday, making room for center Rafael Araújo on the active roster.

Mourning was acquired earlier this month from New Jersey in a trade involving Vince Carter. But Mourning has not reported to Toronto and may never play for the Raptors.

The NBA veteran wants to join a contender, and he is in Florida healing various injuries. The Raptors will likely buy out his contract.



David Wesley (4), the New Orleans Hornets' franchise leader in career starts, was traded to the Houston Rockets on Monday.

The 34-year-old center, who underwent a kidney transplant in 2003, didn't have to pass a physical for the Dec. 17 trade to go through.

Mourning, a seven-time All-Star and three-time NBA defensive player of the year, averaged 10.4 points and 7.1 rebounds in 18 games with New Jersey this season.

Araújo missed five games after he was placed on the injured list Dec. 17 with a lower back strain. Araújo, the eighth overall pick in this year's draft, has averaged 13 points, 2.0 rebounds and 8.2 minutes in 11 games this season.

## Nuggets' Anthony sits out fifth straight game

OAKLAND, Calif. — Carmelo Anthony, Denver's star forward and leading scorer, missed his fifth straight game Monday night when the Nuggets played the Golden State Warriors, but he expects to return Friday when Denver hosts Philadelphia.

"I'm probably 95 percent," Anthony said. "I know how I feel. These next couple days will give me back."

The Nuggets opted to sit him another day so Anthony will be assured of having two good practices on an ankle before Friday's game.

Forward Kenyon Martin also was sidelined Monday as a precautionary measure because of a mid-back strain on his left side. He was listed as day to day.

Martin, the Nuggets' second-leading scorer at 15.2 points per game, experienced back spasms in the first half of Sunday night's 102-88 loss to Dallas and missed the second half. He's still having discomfort in his back.

Anthony, averaging 21.4 points and six rebounds, hasn't played since spraining his ankle Dec. 17 against the Miami Heat when he stepped on Shaquille O'Neal's foot.

# Leg cramp, loss spoil Carter's Nets debut

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Vince Carter is glad he won't see the Palace of Auburn Hills again this season.

At least not until the playoffs.

Carter scored 23 points in his debut with New Jersey but left in overtime with a cramp in his left hamstring, and the Nets fell to the Detroit Pistons 100-90 on Monday night.

"I'm OK — it just cramped up," Carter said. "I'll be fine as soon as I get some fluids into me."

The game was his first since he strained an Achilles' tendon in Toronto's 90-86 overtime loss to the Pistons on Dec. 8. He was traded to the Nets on Dec. 17. "I guess this is twice here, but I'm sure the cramps would have happened anywhere," he said. "I played a lot of minutes in my first game, and I think I got dehydrated. I felt good until then, and my Achilles' is fine."

He didn't start, but played 42 minutes and shot 8-for-19.

Tony Danvers, one of the top players in the league, and we fully expect him to have a bright future in New Jersey," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "He was under a lot of pressure tonight, and he responded extremely well."

Richard Hamilton scored a season-best 37 points for Detroit, which overcame a late eighth-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

"In the last two games, the coaches have definitely given us a lot more freedom to do things on offense," Hamilton said.

Tony Danvers added 18 points and nine rebounds and matched a career high with seven assists.

**Nuggets 119, Magic 111:** Ste-

phon Marbury scored 34 points in visiting New York's best offensive performance of the season.

Kurt Thomas, Allan Houston and Jerome Williams added 15 points apiece for the Knicks, who set season highs in points and assists (29) and tied their season high for field goals made with 46. Steve Francis scored 25 points and Curtino Mobley added 24 for Orlando, playing for the first time after a four-day layoff.

**Pacers 100, Hornets 82:** At Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 24 points and Jermaine O'Neal added 16 to go with 11 rebounds for Indiana.

O'Neal was 7-for-15 in his second game after missing 15 for his role in a brawl with Detroit fans on Nov. 19.

Lee Naillon had a season-high 28 points for New Orleans, which has lost six straight and 17 of 18.

**Wizards 106, Bucks 87:** At Washington, Larry Hughes had 20 points and Gilbert Arenas 17 to lead the Wizards, who bounced back from tying a season low for points in a 109-74 loss at Minnesota on Sunday.

Emeka Okafor had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Charlotte, extending his streak of consecutive double-doubles to 16.

**Grizzlies 96, Clippers 76:** At Memphis, Tenn., Pau Gasol had 18 of his 24 points in the first half, and the Grizzlies rolled over slumping Los Angeles.

Bruce Bowen added 15 points for Memphis, which snapped a two-game losing streak. Corey



During his first game with the team, New Jersey Nets' Vince Carter is taken off the court because of an injured hamstring during overtime against the Detroit Pistons at the Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich. on Monday. The Pistons defeated the Nets 100-90.

Maggette scored 14 points for the Clippers, losers for the seventh time in eight games.

**SuperSonics 98, Jazz 88:** At Salt Lake City, Rashard Lewis scored 22 points and Ray Allen 19 as Seattle won in Utah for the first time in nine tries.

Matt Harpring scored 22 points for the Jazz, who lost for the fifth time in six games. Utah, last beaten at home by Seattle on Feb. 1, 2000, committed 23 turnovers.

**76ers 111, Trail Blazers 104:** At Portland, Ore., Allen Iverson overcame early shooting problems to score 28 points for Philadelphia.

**Warriors 104, Nuggets 101:** At Oakland, Calif., Michael Pietrus scored a career-high 24 points and Golden State won their straight for the first time this season.



Illinois' DeDe Brown puts up a shot over Longwood University's Maurice Sumter in the first half in Champaign, Ill., on Monday. Brown had eight points and 13 assists as the Illini defeated the Lancers 105-79.

# Lethargic Illini still cruise past outgunned Longwood

## Lancers playing full Div. I schedule for first time

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Dee Brown and his Illinois teammates didn't even try to put a positive spin on the top-ranked Illini's sloppy victory over Longwood.

The Illini (12-0) beat Longwood 105-79 on Monday night, setting season highs for points and points allowed against the overmatched Lancers (1-14).

"We didn't have a lot of energy, we just didn't play well and they came out with a lot of heart," said Brown, who had eight points and 13 assists. "We played a good 5 minutes. That was the only good thing about the game."

That came late when the Illini, ignited by one of Deron Williams' four three-pointers, ran off 16 straight points to make it 89-65 with 5:54 to go.

Williams scored a season-high 23 points and had seven assists for Illinois. Luther Head added 20 points, James Augustine had 16 and Roger Powell Jr. 13.

The Lancers fought back from an 18-point first-half deficit and stayed with the Illini deep into the second half. Longwood trailed by seven with 12:33 to go and were down by eight with 9:13 left.

"At that point in time, you look up and you realize we've done it now for 30 minutes, why can't we keep it going for another 10 minutes," Longwood coach Mike Gilman said.

Michael Jefferson scored a career-high 30 points for the Lancers.

### Men's Top 25

"There was no backing down, you could tell he wasn't scared. He just really killed us," Brown said.

Chad Kosmo and Hussein Pistoljev each scored 12 points for Longwood, and Lamar Barrett and Leland Beale had 10 points each.

"We earned their respect," Jefferson said.

"My teammates stepped up. Everybody stepped up, made big plays, played good defense, made some big shots."

The Lancers are playing a full NCAA Division I schedule for the first time this season and the crowd of 16,618 was almost 16,000 more than they see at a typical home game. Illinois won its 38th straight nonconference game at Assembly Hall.

"This is extremely significant for our players, for our university," Gillan said. "We've got some good players, they're great kids and they're going to give a lot of effort."

Illinois coach Bruce Weber said he had noticed the team was Cincinnati improve to 10-0 for the second season in a row.

James White and Armeir Kirkland added 18 points for the Bearcats. Doug Penno led Miami (6-3) with 11 points.

because of no practice time and then we've lost a little bit of pride."

With a game against Cincinnati looming Friday night and the Big Ten season beginning next week, the Illini can't afford to rest on their laurels, Weber said.

"We've got to click it in defensively. That's what's made us No. 1," he said. "If we don't click it in defensively, we're not going to be No. 1 for very long."

Both teams are headed to Las Vegas for two games later this week as part of the Las Vegas Holiday Classic. Longwood meets Cincinnati and Valparaiso. Illinois faces Northwestern State on Thursday before Friday's game against the Bearcats.

**No. 19 Louisville 104, Morehead St. 40:** At Louisville, Ky., Francisco Garcia scored a career-high 29 points for Louisville (9-2), which opened the game with a 12-0 run.

Louisville coach Rick Pitino directed the Cardinals a day after his mother's death.

Chad McKnight led Morehead State (6-4) with 11 points.

**No. 22 Cincinnati 77, Miami, Ohio 53:** At Cincinnati, Eric Hicks had career highs with 21 points and 17 rebounds to help Cincinnati improve to 10-0 for the second season in a row.

James White and Armeir Kirkland added 18 points for the Bearcats. Doug Penno led Miami (6-3) with 11 points.

Play the



WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Point guard Carl Krauser became Pitt's on-court leader last season, even while deferring to the three seniors who led the Panthers' 31-5 team. This season, he's doing a lot more than just directing the offense.

Twice in the No. 10 Panthers'

last three games, the former New York City high school star has set personal scoring highs. He had 28 points in an 84-71 victory at Penn State on Dec. 11, then became the first Pitt player in four years to score 30 or more points when he had 31 Thursday night in a 69-60 victory over Richmond.

Krauser, a 6-foot junior, insists he's not intentionally looking to pick up his scoring but, rather, is

taking open shots when they're there.

"If the opportunity is there, I'm going to take my shot," Krauser said.

By doing so, Krauser has lifted his average to a team-best 16.6 as Pitt has started 9-0 for the third consecutive season. His scoring hasn't dramatically increased—he averaged 15.4 last season—but he has become a much more reliable three-point shooter.

Last season, the Panthers finished 32nd among the nation's 326 Division I teams in three-point shooting, a weakness that ultimately led to their downfall in the NCAA round of 16. But they're shooting much better beyond the arc this season—42 percent to 30.6 percent a season ago—thanks mostly to Krauser and Antonio Graves, who is 9-of-14.

Krauser has made 8 of 39 three-point attempts (46.2 percent), compared to 18 of 51 (35 percent) at this stage a season ago, and is 11-for-19 in his last three games.

Pitt's upgraded outside shooting is discouraging opponents from packing the inside to hold down 6-foot-10 Chris Taft and

6-foot-7 Chevon Troutman, both of whom have had some big games this season.

To Richmond coach Jerry Wainwright, that's mostly to the credit of Krauser. The Spiders often sagged their defense to try to control Taft and Troutman, but that allowed Krauser to make six of eight three-point attempts.

"He's one of the five or six best point guards in the country," Wainwright said. "It's difficult for a point guard to play much better than that."

Krauser spent hour upon hour this summer working to improve his shooting after he made only 40.6 percent of his shots last season and just 38.7 percent in Big East play.

"We just have to go with what's working," Krauser said.

"Sometimes, playing down low with Chris and Chey is going to work. Sometimes I'm going to be on and hitting shots, drawing guys to me—and, when I do that, I can hit guys like Chris and Chey and Mark (McCarroll). At Pitt, I've learned it's never been one guy scoring 30 points a game. That's just the history of Pittsburgh basketball."

## Krauser's scoring giving lift to No. 10 Pittsburgh

The LARGEST SELECTION of Wheels & Tires... on the web!

& Quality Brands

Check it out...tires.com

LOOK What's Included in our wheel & tire package?

■ Mounting & Corrosion Resistant Valves  
■ Installation & Valve Grease  
■ Valves & Grease

FREE SHIPPING to your APO/FPO



# Yanks' Red Sox, Angels get the low payoff

## Devil Rays have lowest payroll in third straight season

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Yankees are paying more in luxury tax than the Tampa Bay Devil Rays spent on their payroll.

New York is required to pay \$25,026,352, according to a Dec. 21 memorandum that was sent to all major league teams.

Two other teams also owe money for exceeding the payroll threshold of \$120.5 million: Boston must send \$3,155,234 and Anaheim \$927,059. Checks for the competitive-balance tax, as it is formally known, are due at the commissioner's office by Jan. 31.

"The CBT is now an important part of baseball's economic landscape," Red Sox owner John Henry said in a e-mail Monday.

"From my perspective, even though it costs us, the stronger the CBT is in the future, the stronger the sport is going to be. It is a much more productive form of taxation than that of strictly revenue taxation because the economic incentives for teams are not damaged."

Tampa Bay, meanwhile, finished with the lowest payroll for the third straight season. At \$24.4 million, the Devil Rays had the lowest figure for a 25-man roster since 2000.

In 2003, the first year of the new luxury tax, the Yankees were the only team to pay, owing \$11,798,357, according to the team's latest revised bill. Because they exceeded the threshold a second time, the Yankees were taxed at a rate of 30 percent for the

### 2000-04 Baseball payroll comparison

NEW YORK (AP) — Comparisons of 2004 payroll payments, as determined by the commissioner's office. Totals include transaction pay, prorated shares of signing bonuses and earned incentive bonuses, buyouts of 2004 options and cash transactions. Income deferred without interest is disclosed.

Team	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
N.Y. Yankees	187,833,394	199,288,038	138,423,149	114,331,641	95,288,187
Boston	130,935,385	128,050,617	116,613,137	114,331,641	95,288,187
Anaheim	115,098,812	79,917,113	52,403,618	49,422,287	34,111,699
N.Y. Mets	103,199,211	100,623,393	102,863,393	93,125,240	82,526,375
Los Angeles	100,498,142	113,277,000	104,140,812	94,843,849	82,526,375
Chicago Cubs	100,653,389	94,046,889	74,949,689	72,866,141	69,480,018
San Diego	98,494,615	91,788,231	82,566,496	72,866,141	69,480,018
St. Louis	92,810,059	93,116,025	73,807,364	76,153,956	69,480,018
San Francisco	82,444,615	80,178,231	72,566,496	69,480,018	69,480,018
Houston	81,903,137	72,833,342	66,686,813	64,401,169	50,146,546
Seattle	81,903,137	72,833,342	66,686,813	64,401,169	50,146,546
Atlanta	79,425,468	79,425,468	74,795,177	74,795,177	67,575,059
Texas	79,425,468	79,425,468	74,795,177	74,795,177	67,575,059
Colorado	69,486,511	69,486,511	62,011,406	62,011,406	53,982,562
Arizona	64,122,029	62,011,406	59,040,289	59,040,289	51,438,914
San Diego	63,523,455	50,879,041	50,131,319	50,131,319	42,942,954
Chicago White Sox	64,515,141	63,285,343	57,220,021	57,220,021	50,171,574
Oakland	61,908,127	51,917,013	40,865,013	39,727,626	35,617,812
Detroit	58,872,752	55,968,056	54,574,721	51,110,448	48,806,803
Baltimore	56,111,411	72,037,399	59,974,719	57,447,444	54,574,721
Minnesota	54,795,587	56,865,573	41,825,387	37,411,912	32,733,347
Florida	50,631,626	58,753,834	42,716,666	42,716,666	38,416,335
Cincinnati	50,340,382	55,972,106	43,609,226	38,066,639	32,733,347
Kansas City	42,344,012	50,605,356	44,581,074	43,847,492	42,177,400
Cleveland	44,728,466	47,265,536	52,217,132	36,127,444	29,816,297
Los Angeles	42,427,621	52,427,621	47,265,536	47,265,536	42,177,400
Montreal	39,386,467	42,426,440	36,076,732	34,634,462	27,771,466
Pittsburgh	32,607,217	52,772,636	47,265,536	47,265,536	42,177,400
Philadelphia	29,599,334	47,344,132	49,866,107	46,684,732	39,367,613
Tampa Bay	24,427,167	27,434,258	25,882,301	50,974,468	31,213,853

amount they were over. Boston and Anaheim were taxed at a 2.5 percent rate.

If the Yankees go over the 2005 threshold of \$128 million, which appears certain, they would be taxed at a 40 percent rate.

New York also estimates it will give up about \$60 million as part of baseball's revenue-sharing plan this season, meaning the Yankees will send the commissioner's office about \$85 million. The team's estimated \$315 million revenue in 2004, Boston's revenue-sharing payment is estimated at approximately \$42 million on revenue of at least \$22 million.

The Yankees easily finished ahead of other teams in the regis-

lar payrolls figures for the sixth straight season, winding up at a record \$187.9 million, \$18 million above the previous mark they set in 2003.

Boston, which overcame a 3-0 deficit against the Yankees in the AL championship series and won the World Series for the first time since 1918, was second at \$130.4 million.

Anaheim, defeated by the Red Sox in the third round of the playoffs, was first at \$115.6 million, followed by the New York Mets (\$103.2 million), Los Angeles (\$101.7 million), the Chicago Cubs (\$100.7 million) and Philadelphia (\$97.4 million).

St. Louis, swept by Boston in the World Series, was eighth at \$92.8 million.

At the other end, Milwaukee was 29th at \$23.6 million, down from \$43.3 million, and Pittsburgh was 28th at \$32.5 million, down from \$33.3 million.

Texas fell from fifth at \$103.3 million to 13th at \$79.2 million, Atlanta went from sixth at \$98 million to 12th at \$79.4 million, Seattle dropped from seventh at \$97.7 million to 11th at \$81.8 million and Arizona declined from 11th at \$83.8 million to 15th at \$68.4 million.

Anaheim rose from 12th at \$80 million to third, the Cubs increased from 10th at \$84 million to sixth and Philadelphia went up from 15th at \$71.5 million to seventh.

Payrolls include salaries, prorated shares of signing bonuses, earned bonuses, buyouts of 2004 options and cash transactions.

For the luxury tax, which is based on 40-man rosters, the average annual values of contracts and includes benefits, the Yankees finished with a payroll of \$203.9 million, while Boston was at \$141.5 million and Anaheim at \$124.6 million.

Many midlevel teams appear to be spending money on free agents this offseason, possibly because of the shift in economics created by increased revenue sharing. That could push the average salary higher next season.

According to the players' association, the average dropped 2.5 percent this year to \$2,313,535 from \$2,372,189, the first decrease since 1995 and only the third since record-keeping began in 1967.

# Arizona, N.Y. still pursuing Johnson deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Yankees and Arizona Diamondbacks talked Monday night for the first time since the collapse last week of a three-team, 10-player trade that would have sent Randy Johnson to New York.

Yankees President Randy Levine spoke with one Arizona chief executive officer Jeff Moorad. No progress was made, and the sides planned to talk again later in the week.

The proposed trade came apart last week when Los Angeles reversed course and withdrew.

### Giants sign OF M. Alou

SAN FRANCISCO — Baseball brought Felipe and Moises Alou together more than a decade ago in Montreal, and now father and son are reunited again.

The San Francisco Giants finalized a two-year contract with Moises Alou on Monday, meaning his again play for his father, manager Felipe Alou.

"I'm just happy for the opportunity to join my dad again," Moises said. "Ending my career playing for my dad, I always wanted to do that. The opportunity fell in my lap."

It also fills a huge need for the Giants — finding an outfielder was among the final tasks on general manager Brian Sabean's winter-to-do list.

The deal is worth \$13.25 million and includes a player option for the 2006 season. An agreement was reached last week but was pending until Alou passed a physical.

The four-time All-Star is a career .300 hitter, with 278 homers and 1,092 RBIs.

### Cubs, OF Hollnstedt agree to one-year deal

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs agreed to a \$900,000 contract with outfielder Todd Hollnstedt on Monday, avoiding arbitration.

"I fell in love with the city, the team and the organization," Hollnstedt said. "I'm glad this dying passion helped help this team get over the top and help them get back to the World Series."

The former NL Rookie of the Year did his last part year, his first in Chicago, until an injury ended his season on June 27. He hit .318 with eight homers and 22 RBIs in 57 games.

He started 26 games in right field when Sammy Sosa was hurt. He also was the Cubs' best pinch-hitter, batting .563 off the bench with two homers and four RBIs.

Hollnstedt's season ended three months early after he fouled a pitch off his right shin, leaving him with a deep bruise and a stress fracture.

The injury is completely healed, Hollnstedt said. He has been given medical clearance to play, and is back running and cross-training.

# Sorenstam again voted A.P.'s female athlete of year

The Associated Press

Golfer Annika Sorenstam is the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for the second straight year. Sorenstam received 40 first-place votes and 263 total votes.

Diana Taurasi, who led Connecticut to the NCAA women's basketball title and then captured the WNBA Rookie of the Year award, finished second. She had 15 first-place votes and 154 points, two more than Russian teen tennis sensation Maria Sharapova.

Sorenstam's year began with a win in the ANZ Ladies Masters on Australia's Gold Coast, making up a four-stroke deficit at the midway point by closing with a pair of scintillating 65s. She ended the year by edging Cristie Kerr in a playoff in the ADT Championship, the final tournament on the LPGA calendar, with her only victory that didn't come by multiple shots.

### U.S. defeats Switzerland in World Juniors

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — The United States matched Switzerland's four-goal outburst in the third period for a 6-4 victory Monday night in the preliminary round of the World Junior Hockey Championship.

The United States led 2-0 entering the third after goals by the United States, the tournament's defending champion, improved to 2-0. Switzerland fell to 1-1.

Sidney Crosby had two goals and Ryan Getzlaf a goal and two assists in Canada's 8-1 victory over Sweden in another preliminary game.

Canada, a favorite to win the tournament, improved to 2-0 in preliminary games. Sweden dropped to 1-1.

### Vol's freshman QBs likely out for Cotton Bowl

IRVING, Texas — Both of Tennessee's freshman quarterbacks may be out for the Cotton Bowl.

Junior Rick Clausen will start as planned in Saturday's game against Texas A&M (7-4).

The Vols (9-3) had hoped freshman Brent Scheffer would be the starter after returning for the first time since breaking his collarbone Oct. 30 at South Carolina.

But Scheffer has been unable to practice in Texas because of with flu-like symptoms. Coach Phillip Fulmer said on Monday that Scheffer was "day-to-day," and hoped he would practice Tuesday.

The Vols' other freshman QB — Erik Engle — hasn't played since separating his shoulder against North Carolina. He will not play in the Cotton Bowl, Fulmer said.

Clausen has started the last three games in place of the freshman.

### Louisville gives LSU permission to meet with football coach Petrino

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — LSU may speak with Louisville football coach Bobby Petrino about

the Tigers' job, which opened when Nick Saban left for the Miami Dolphins.

Petrino is in Memphis, Tenn., where the No. 7 Cardinals play on Friday. Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich gave LSU permission to talk to Petrino, Louisville spokesman Marco Gasparino said Tuesday.

Six days ago, Petrino received a raise from \$550,000 to \$1 million a season guaranteed, with more than \$860,000 also possible in incentives. When his new contract was announced, he dismissed inquiries about the LSU position.

Saban will coach LSU in the Capital One Bowl against Iowa on Saturday. Saban had the national's highest college football contract, a seven-year, \$18.45 million deal he signed after winning a share of the national title in 2003. The school is completing a stadium expansion and a new football operations center.

### Schuld wins women's giant slalom

SEMMERING, Austria — Marius Schild won a World Cup giant slalom before her home fans Tuesday and Tanja Poutinen of Finland was second in the overall standings by finishing second.

Sarah Schelcher of the United States was fourth.

Schild completed the two runs on the Hirschenkogel course in 2 minutes, 15.97 seconds, edging Poutinen by 0.11 seconds. Austrian, Elisabeth Goergl, was third in 2:17.53.



# Connecticut routs Toledo in its first bowl

## QB Orlovsky, tough defense carry Huskies to victory in Motor City

By DONNA TOMMELLO

The Associated Press

**DETROIT** Connecticut coach Randy Edsall lifted the Motor City Bowl trophy high above his head to the delight of players and fans mobbing the on-field podium.

"I wanted to win it for these kids. They're all winners," Edsall said.

Especially Dan Orlovsky, the star quarterback who threw for 239 yards and two touchdowns to help Connecticut rout Toledo 39-10 on Monday night in the Huskies' first bowl game since becoming a full Division I-A team three years ago.

"It was so gratifying for me to have those kids go out as champions," Edsall said. "They're Motor City Bowl champions now and nobody is ever going to be able to take that away from them."

Orlovsky, the leader of the senior class that completed the best three-year run in school history with a 33-3 record, said the program is just getting started.

"Do I think the sky is the limit? Yes," Orlovsky said.

Thousands of UConn fans were part of the record Motor City Bowl crowd of 32,552.

"Before this year I heard people say UConn has arrived. UConn has arrived now, literally," Orlovsky said.

The Huskies (8-4) dominated in every phase, holding the Rockets (9-4) to a season-low 10 points and just 78 yards on the ground.

Toledo quarterback Bruce Gradkowski, who broke his throwing hand in the Mid-American



AP

Connecticut QB Dan Orlovsky threw for 239 yards and two TDs as the Huskies defeated Toledo 39-10 in the Motor City Bowl on Monday.

Conference championship on Dec. 2, struggled in the first half. He scored the Rockets' only TD on a 1-yard run.

Backup quarterback Marques Council played the second half, throwing for 160 yards with two interceptions.

"It was a lot tougher than I thought it would be and it was better to get a healthy guy out there who could do the job," Gradkowski said.

The Huskies' special teams also played well. Matt Nuzie kicked a career-best four field goals and added three extra points, and Larry Taylor ran back a punt 68 yards for a score in the first quarter, his first of the year.

The Rockets came into the game averaging 35.2 points.

"It doesn't happen every often and it's a rare thing," Toledo coach Tom Amstutz said. "I give

UConn a lot of credit. We just didn't have all our guys going."

The Huskies got their biggest lift with the return of defensive end Tyler King. The 6-foot-5 senior made his first start since breaking his leg on Sept. 30.

King and his teammates were ready for every trick play the Rockets tried to run. King recovered a fumble on Toledo's fake punt in the first half. Four plays later, Orlovsky threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Jason Williams. Orlovsky also connected with Brian Sparks on a 7-yard scoring pass late in the second quarter.

"When we got the turnover on the fake punt, that was great recognition," Edsall said. "Our coaches did a great job preparing the players and then taking advantage of those situations."

The Huskies began their upgrade from Division I-AA six years ago when the school hired Edsall. They joined the Big East this season, finishing 3-3 in the league.

Orlovsky completed 20 of 41 passes before he came out of the game to a standing ovation. The bowl also was the final game for senior linebacker Alfred Fincher, who switched his number from No. 9 to No. 4 Monday night in honor of Dan Reen, a friend and former Norwood (Mass.) high school teammate killed in a car crash several months ago. Fincher finished with nine tackles and an interception.

Council completed 16 of 28 passes for Toledo, and Gradkowski is 6-for-12 for 43 yards.

Keron Henry led Connecticut's

receivers with nine catches for 109 yards, and Cornell Brockington ran for 72 yards. Matt Lawrence scored the Huskies' only rushing TD — a late 11-yarder.

Orlovsky, from Shelton, Conn., spurned offers from other Division I-A schools such as Purdue and Virginia to play in his home state. He has no regrets.

"It's just a gratifying process to go through and it's extremely humbling and an honor to go through it with the people we have," Orlovsky said.

### Connecticut 39, Toledo 10

Connecticut 17 13 3 6-39

Toledo 0 7 3 0-10

Conn.—FG Nuzie 35, 32:55.

Conn.—Williams 32 pass from Orlovsky

(Nuzie kick), 6:41.

Conn.—Taylor 68 punt return (Nuzie kick),

2:31.

Second Quarter

Toi.—Gradkowski 1 run (Robbins kick),

10:53.

Conn.—Sparks 7 pass from Orlovsky (Nuzie

kick), 7:45.

Conn.—FG Nuzie 37, 1:24.

Conn.—FG Nuzie 35, 0:00.

Third Quarter

Toi.—FG Robbins 27, 1:07.

Conn.—FG Nuzie 36, 1:53.

Conn.—Lawrence 11 run (kick failed), 2:55.

A—32:55.

First downs

Rushes-yards

Passing

Comp.—Att.—Int.

Punts—Avg.

Fumbles—Lost

Penalties—Yards

Time of possession

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Connecticut: Brockington 15-72,

Bushley 9-55, Williams 1-14, Lawrence 1-11,

Anderson 1-10, Orlovsky 1-minus 1.

Toledo: Dawson 15-78, Council 10-10, Parmelee 4-4,

Shelley 1-minus 11, Higgins 1-minus 4,

41 Body 1-minus 9.

Receiving—Connecticut: Orlovsky

20-41, 325; Brockington 9-108,

20-41, 235.

Passing—Connecticut: Orlovsky

20-41, 325; Brockington 9-108,

20-41, 235.

Toledo: Dawson 15-78, Council 10-10,

Shelley 1-minus 11, Higgins 1-minus 4,

41 Body 1-minus 9.

Penalties—Connecticut: Henry 9-108,

Williams 1-14, Lawrence 1-11,

Anderson 1-10, Orlovsky 1-minus 1.

Toledo: Dawson 15-78, Council 10-10,

Shelley 1-minus 11, Higgins 1-minus 4,

41 Body 1-minus 9.

Time of possession

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Virginia: Hagens 7-65,

14-63, Pearson 3-21, Miller 5-46,

Davis 1-14, Fresno State, Mathis 15-126,

Sumlin 21-96,

Pinegar 2-3.

Passing—Virginia: Miller 5-66,

McGrew 4-30,

Pearman 3-21,

Miller 2-18,

Sumlin 2-10,

Davis 1-14,

Fresno State, Forde 5-72,

Mathis 4-46,

Jennings 4-43,

Spach 2-30,

Miller 2-18,

Rivers 2-5,

Wood 1-32,

Reid 1-7,

Fairman 1-3,

Pinegar 1-minus 10.

# Fresno QB Pinegar throws five TDs in OT win over Virginia in MPC Bowl

The Associated Press

**BOISE, Idaho** — Fresno State coach Pat Hill cringes when anyone applies the "mid-major" label to his Bulldogs or the Western Athletic Conference.

It doesn't fit, he insists, and certainly not after Fresno State notched another victory over the big boys.

Paul Pinegar threw five TD passes, including a 25-yarder to Stephen Spach on Fresno State's first play of overtime, and the Bulldogs beat No. 18 Virginia 37-34 in the MPC Computers Bowl on Monday.

"Because of the way we finished the season and the opponent we had, this was another big win," Hill said.

Fresno State (9-3) closed with six straight victories and added the Cavaliers (8-4) of the Atlantic Coast Conference to a list of victims that in recent years has included Colorado, Oregon State, Wisconsin, Washington and Kansas State.

"I believe the Western Athletic

Conference is good football," said Hill, noting Boise State is 36-2 the last three years. "I've said this several times: Teams in our conference don't have to take a back seat to anybody."

Virginia started 5-0 and had hoped to land a Bowl Championship Series bid before ACC losses to Florida State, Virginia Tech and Miami.

The 2,000-mile trip to play on the blue turf in Boise was considered a disappointment by some fans. It looked great after Wali Lundy's 20-yard TD run put the Cavaliers up 31-24 midway through the fourth period.

Pinegar was fabulous, completing 23 of 36 passes for 235 yards and three touchdowns without a interception. He led the Bulldogs back on a 21-7 second-quarter deficit and his five TD passes were a record for the game, formerly known as the Humanitarian Bowl.

### Fresno State 37, No. 18 Virginia 34 (OT)

Virginia 14 7 3 7 3-34

Fresno State 7 3 14 6-37

First Quarter  
UVA—Pearman 13 run (Hughes kick), 12:02.  
FSU—Jennings 13 pass from Pinegar (Vinsantier kick), 6:37.

Second Quarter  
UVA—Hagens 7-65, 14-63.  
FSU—McGrew 7 pass from Hagens (Hughes kick), 9:07.

Third Quarter  
FSU—Jamison 22 pass from Pinegar (Vinsantier kick), 8:42.

Fourth Quarter  
UVA—FG Hughes 26.  
FSU—Wood 22 pass from Pinegar (Vinsantier kick), 12:12.

Overtime  
UVA—FG Hughes 26.  
FSU—Spach 25 pass from Pinegar (A—26:35).

First downs

Rushes-yards

Passing

Comp.—Att.—Int.

Punts—Avg.

Fumbles—Lost

Penalties—Yards

Time of possession

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Virginia: Hagens 7-65,

14-63, Pearson 3-21, Miller 5-46,

Davis 1-14, Fresno State, Mathis 15-126,

Sumlin 21-96,

Pinegar 2-3.

Passing—Virginia: Miller 5-66,

McGrew 4-30,

Pearman 3-21,

Miller 2-18,

Sumlin 2-10,

Davis 1-14,

Fresno State, Forde 5-72,

Mathis 4-46,

Jennings 4-43,

Spach 2-30,

Miller 2-18,

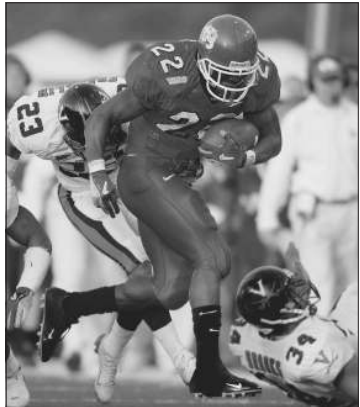
Rivers 2-5,

Wood 1-32,

Reid 1-7,

Fairman 1-3,

Pinegar 1-minus 10.



AP

Fresno State running back Wendell Mathis (22) runs past Virginia's Marquis Weeks (5) and Ahmad Brooks, on ground, in the fourth quarter of the MPC Computer Bowl in Boise, Idaho, on Monday.

# Despite slide, Vikings pick up Tice's option for '05

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice will return for at least one more year, and nothing short of a lucrative contract extension could make him happier.

Despite a second straight late-season slide, the Vikings on Monday picked up Tice's \$1 million option for 2005, ending much speculation about the coach's future.

"I'm pleased," Tice said. "I want to remain the football coach of this football team because we've come a long way in three years."

Tice would have become a free agent Jan. 31 if the club failed to exercise the option by Saturday — one day before Minnesota's regular season finale at Washington.

Instead, the 45-year-old coach will have a chance to improve his 23-25 record and reverse his team's reputation for fading down the stretch.

The Vikings raced to 6-0 in 2003, Tice's second full season, but finished 9-7 and missed the playoffs. They are headed in a similar direction this year, having lost six of their past nine games, but at 8-7 still have a good shot at a wild-card berth.

"Although our expectation of winning the division was not met, we feel that the program Mike Tice has guided gives us the talent base to have success today



and in the future," owner Red McCombs said in a statement Monday. "Our expectations are high for the upcoming playoffs and for next year."

Widely known as a player's coach, Tice has absorbed much of the blame for the Vikings' problems on and off the field, but the team's stars have supported him publicly.

Despite a 33 percent raise from his reported \$750,000 salary this season, Tice will remain one of the NFL's lowest-paid head coaches.

## Cowboys safety Woodson headed to retirement

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys are ready to bid farewell to safety Darren Woodson, the last player left from their teams that won three Super Bowls in the mid-1990s.

Woodson hasn't played all year because of injuries and was expected to retire or be released after this season. Team owner Jerry Jones said on his weekly radio show that it's only a question of "when we and he will make it official." Coach Bill Parcells had said Monday that an announcement was coming as soon as this week.

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)

**Redskins** QB Clinton Portis (tom pectoral muscle), LB Lavar Arrington (knee), CB Kei Smith (sprained right ankle) are out for Sunday's game against Minnesota. CB Fred Smoot (knee injury) is unlikely to play Sunday's game vs. St. Louis.

Known as "Woody," the popular safety smiled a lot but also defended punishing hits. A four-time All-Pro, he'll leave as the team's career leader in tackles with 1,350.

Woodson was a rookie on the 1992 squad that won Dallas' first Super Bowl of the Jones era. He also was a key player on the 1993 and '95 teams.

The 35-year-old Woodson had back surgery three days before the start of training camp. His recovery was set back by a nerve problem and he was never able to even make it back to practice.

His absence forced Roy Williams to be used differently and made the Cowboys rely on projected backups Tony Dixon and Lynn Scott.

Dallas allowed the fewest yards in the NFL last season with Woodson. The Cowboys have plummeted to 21st this season.

"I think you saw the impact on our defense this year," Jones said.

## Colts to keep Manning's record-breaking football

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts will hold onto the football with which Peyton Manning threw his record-breaking 49th touchdown pass unless he tosses another one against Denver in the regular-season finale.

Manning fired the 21-yard pass to wide receiver Brandon Stokley with 56 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter Sunday. The pass broke Dan Marino's 20-year NFL record for scoring passes in a season.

After the game, both Manning and Stokley said they didn't know what happened to the ball.

Some reports said representatives from the Pro Football Hall of Fame took control of it after Stokley's catch.

Stokley said he handed the ball to injured wide receiver Aaron Moorehead. Moorehead told him later that sideline officials placed it in a box for safekeeping.

It turns out that the ball was still in the hands of Colts' officials.

The Colts said Monday that if Manning doesn't throw another touchdown pass this season, the franchise will keep the ball and display it in the team's Hall of Fame.

If Manning throws another one, the ball will be sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Colts will keep the final touch-

down ball. The ball with which Manning threw his 48th touchdown pass will be sent to the Hall of Fame.

## Mora wants Falcons starters in lineup on Sunday

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Head coach Jim Mora wants every starter, including quarterback Michael Vick, to practice this week.

With his Atlanta Falcons unable to affect their standing as the NFC's No. 2 seed last week, Mora decided Vick, tight end Alge Crumpler, nose tackle Ed Jasper and cornerback Jason Webster wouldn't play at New Orleans.

Running back T.J. Duckett, a 254-pounder who's hard to stop in short-yardage situations, missed his second straight game, but Mora expects the injured players to be on the field when the team returns to practice Wednesday.

Atlanta visits Seattle on Sunday, after which point the Falcons won't play again until the divisional round of the playoffs Jan. 15-16.

"Absolutely, as I stand here today, it's my firm belief that he'll play," Mora said Monday of Vick. "Something would have to transpire with his shoulder that I don't foresee right now for him to stay off the field. Same with Alge, same with T.J., same with Ed, same with Jason. I expect all those guys to be on the field Wednesday and rolling."

Message for our men and women in uniform...

## WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Please visit the site at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com) and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



## Rams: St. Louis runs over second-string Eagles

## RAMS, FROM BACK PAGE

Donovan McNabb played one series, when the Eagles got their only points. Defensive end Jevon Kearse never got onto the field and most of the starters were gone by halftime, if not sooner.

"You have to make a decision and there have been some good ones that have gone this route and there have been some bad ones that have gone this route," coach Andy Reid said after his

team's six-game winning streak was snapped. "So I don't think there's any answer. I think you look at past history when I've been here, so I made that decision to rest some guys."

Philadelphia's second-string defenders couldn't handle Jackson or Marc Bulger, who missed the past two games with a shoulder problem.

Bulger was sharp, going 20-for-27 for 233 yards, and hit Isaac Bruce for a 7-yard TD.

Martz revealed after the game that Bulger has been hurt since the season opener.

Philadelphia managed only 155 yards against the Rams' 24th-ranked defense, 63 on the McNabb-led drive that ended with Freddie Mitchell's 7-yard touchdown catch.

Despite resting starters, the Eagles didn't escape unscathed. Cornerbacks Lito Sheppard, a Pro Bowler, and Dexter Wynn collided chasing a pass by Wilkins

on a fake punt. Both lay on the ground for several minutes before walking off, and Sheppard stayed out with a quadriceps contusion.

Rookie fullback Thomas Tapeh was carted off with 28 seconds remaining with a dislocated hip. Tight end Chad Lewis strained his triceps.

The Rams had 88 yards rushing in their previous two losses. Against the overmatched squad the Eagles used, the Rams gained 419 yards, 209 on the ground.

## NFL scoreboard

### American Conference

	East	
	W	L T Pct FPF
Y-New England	13	2 0 .867 416 27
N.Y. Jets	10	5 0 .667 304 22
Buffalo	9	6 0 .600 338 22
Miami	4	11 0 .267 252 32
South		
Y-Indianapolis	12	3 0 .800 358 20
Jacksonville	9	6 0 .600 328 27
Houston	7	8 0 .467 295 31
Tennessee	4	11 0 .267 320 32
North		
Y-Pittsburgh	14	1 0 .933 343 22
Baltimore	8	7 0 .533 287 28
Cincinnati	7	8 0 .467 336 36
Cleveland	3	12 0 .200 254 37
West		
Y-San Diego	11	4 0 .733 422 27
Denver	9	6 0 .600 348 38
Kansas City	7	8 0 .467 466 41
San Francisco	6	10 0 .333 316 37

## National Conference

	East	West	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yz-Philadelphia	13	2	0	867	366	37	37
Dallas	6	9	0	400	269	37	37
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	333	275	37	37
Washington	5	10	0	333	219	24	24
<b>South</b>							
y-Atlanta	11	4	0	733	314	30	30
Carolina	7	8	0	467	337	31	31
New Orleans	7	8	0	467	327	31	31
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	333	294	24	24
<b>North</b>							
y-Green Bay	9	6	0	600	393	36	36
Minnesota	8	7	0	533	387	37	37
Detroit	6	9	0	400	277	32	32
Chicago	5	10	0	333	217	24	24
<b>West</b>							
x-Seattle	8	7	0	533	343	34	34
St. Louis	7	8	0	467	287	36	36
Arizona	5	10	0	333	272	31	31
San Francisco	2	13	0	133	252	43	43

x-clinched playoff spot

**Friday's games**

Green Bay 34, Minnesota 31  
**Saturday's games**  
 Kansas City 31, Oakland 30  
 Denver 37, Tennessee 16

**Sunday's game:**

Detroit 19, Chicago 13  
Indianapolis 34, San Diego 31, OT  
Pittsburgh 20, Baltimore 7  
Houston 21, Jacksonville 0  
New Orleans 26, Atlanta 13  
Cincinnati 23, N.Y. Giants 22  
Buffalo 41, San Francisco 7  
New England 23, N.Y. Jets 7  
Seattle 24, Arizona 21  
Dallas 13, Washington 10  
Carolina 37, Tampa Bay 20

Monday's game

St. Louis 20, Philadelphia 7  
**Sunday, Jan. 2**  
 Detroit at Tennessee  
 Miami at Baltimore  
 Green Bay at Chicago  
 N.Y. Jets at St. Louis  
 Cleveland at Houston  
 Minnesota at Washington  
 Pittsburgh at Buffalo  
 New Orleans at Carolina  
 San Francisco at New England  
 Cincinnati at Philadelphia  
 Atlanta at Seattle  
 Tampa Bay at Arizona  
 Kansas City at San Diego  
 Indianapolis at Denver  
 Jacksonville at Oakland  
 Dallas at N.Y. Giants  
**End Regular Season**

## Monday

**Rams 20, Eagles 7**

Philadelphia	7	0	0	0-
St. Louis	7	3	7	3-2

**First Quarter**  
 STL-S.Jackson 5 run (Wilkins kick), 9:03.  
 Phil-Mitchell 7 pass from McNabb (Aker kick), 1:38.

**Second Quarter**  
 STL-FG Wilkins 28, :42.

**Third Quarter**  
 STL-Bruce 7 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 7:38.

**Fourth Quarter**  
 STL-FG Wilkins 29, 5:24.  
 A-66, 1:29.

## Ph

First downs	11	2
Total Net Yards	151	22
Rushes-yards	23-81	44-20
Passing	7-21	21
Punt Returns	0-0	2-2
Kickoff Returns	5-13	2-2
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	8-23-0	20-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-8	2-1
Fumbles-Lost	6-0-0	2-3-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3
Penalties-Yards	13-95	5-45
Time of Possession	18:16	41:54

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**Rushing—Philadelphia.** Levens 10-yards  
Mahe 6-17, Tappie 2-13, Blake 1-8, De-  
4-minus 1-1. **St. Louis.** S.Jackson 24-144  
1-1, De 1-1, Bulger 2-7.

**Passing—Philadelphia.** McNabb 3-30-0  
Detmer 1-6-0, Blake 4-14-0-4. **St. Louis.**  
McNabb 22-25, Wilkins 0-0-0.

**Receiving—Philadelphia.** Mitchell 2-20  
Tappie 2-15, Levens 1-2, G Lewis 1-6, Mahe  
1-1, De 1-1, S. Wilkins 1-1, Bruce 1-8, Hol-  
7-75, Curtis 3-2, McDonald 1-9, Goodspeed  
1-4, Manumaleuna 1-4.

**Missed field goal—St. Louis.** Wilkins 1-0



## GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

**SPECIAL OFFER!** Subscribe to **STARS AND STRIPES** before December 31, 2004 and receive an **EXTRA! EXTRA!** large **STARS AND STRIPES** gift mug!

Don't miss daily developments on issues that affect you the most – Deployments, Local Happenings, Military Transformation, DoDDs Schools and so much more.

Special introductory rates offer substantial savings on the cover price!

Three months: \$45.50 (Save 12.5%) Six months: \$84.50 (Save 18.75%) Twelve months: \$156 (Save 25%)

Contact your STARS AND STRIPES customer service representative today:  
tel: 06155 601 438 or DSN 349-8438. Email: [customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil)  
Mention promo code: FREEMUG to receive your STARS AND STRIPES gift mug.

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper

\*Gift mug offer valid only while supplies last. Special introductory rates available to new Home Delivery subscribers only. Home delivery not available in some areas; contact your STARKS AND STRIPES customer service representative for more details.



## SPORTS



Shaq scores 31 to help Heat win franchise-record 12th consecutive game, Page 29

# Rams remain in playoff chase

## As Philly rest stars, Jackson's career game lifts St. Louis

BY BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Rams still have high playoff hopes. The Philadelphia Eagles just hope the playoffs get here before anyone else goes down.

By beating the Eagles' junior varsity 20-7 Monday night, the Rams (7-8) ensured their season finale against the New York Jets wouldn't just be meaningful for the opponent.

Behind rookie Steven Jackson's best performance of his brief pro career, St. Louis stayed alive for the NFC West crown or for a wild-card berth.

"It was a statement game for me," Jackson said

after rushing for 148 yards and a 5-yard touchdown before bruising his right knee in the fourth quarter. "It was a must-win game. I wanted to come out and run the ball pretty hard when I had the opportunities. I wanted to make up for lost time."

Jackson, a first-round draft choice and the first running back selected last April, missed the past two losses that dropped the Rams to the edge of elimination. A previous knee injury sidelined him two weeks ago, then coach Mike Martz didn't use him last week.



Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb, above, played one series and led Philadelphia to its only touchdown on Monday. Running back Brian Westbrook, offensive tackle Tra Thomas and defensive end Jevon Kearse did not play for Philadelphia.



Philadelphia defender Roderick Hood tries to stop St. Louis wide receiver Isaac Bruce during the Rams' 20-7 victory on Monday night.

But Martz turned to the youngster immediately against Philadelphia (13-2), and it paid off.

In a stark departure from his passing persona, Martz — perhaps sensing it would be Jackson's night — called 10 running plays on the opening drive that covered 73 yards. Jackson ran for 46 yards and Marshall Faulk for 27 on the march.

Jackson also had a 43-yard run in the second period on a drive that ended with Jeff Wilkins missing a 44-yard field goal.

"That first series, we were handing the ball to him and he's running through them, around them, every which way you can," Martz said. "He's a terrific back and it afforded us the ability to go down and not throw the ball one time. When you've got a guy playing like that — spectacular."

If the Rams (7-8) beat the Jets on Sunday and Seattle loses to Atlanta, St. Louis will win the NFC West. If the Seahawks win and take the division, St. Louis can

make the playoffs by winning and having Minnesota lose at Washington, or by Carolina and New Orleans tying.

A win for the Jets would put them into the AFC playoffs.

"After all the drama we've been through this year, to be in position to potentially get into the playoffs, how awesome is that?" Martz said. "We will show up next week and lay it all out there."

The Eagles, who own home-field advantage for the NFC playoffs, didn't lay it out Monday night because they didn't need to. Perhaps spooked by the ankle and leg injury that has sidelined star receiver Terrell Owens, they weren't about to jeopardize other stars in a game that meant nothing to them.

Running back Brian Westbrook, their prime offensive threat with Owens out, was scratched, along with starting tackle Tra Thomas.

SEE RAMS ON PAGE 35



Philadelphia's Greg Lewis, left, is tackled by the Rams' Jerametrius Butler. Without QB Donovan McNabb, the Eagles managed 92 yards of offense in 3½ quarters.

### Middling Nuggets, on a six-game slide, fire Bzdelik

Page 30



### Despite December woes, Tice will coach Vikings in 2005

Page 34



### UConn wins easily in its bowl debut; Fresno surprises No. 18 Virginia

Page 33

